

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Man's work
The life of a male midwife. Lee Rodwell meets a man in a woman's world.
Cash...
Stephen Taylor in Zambia. Part 2: the economy.
...register
The changing face of Carmen.



Canal...
A Special Report on the cultural treasures of the Veneto
...boats
How life has turned out for the boat people from Vietnam.

Cosmonauts return to Earth

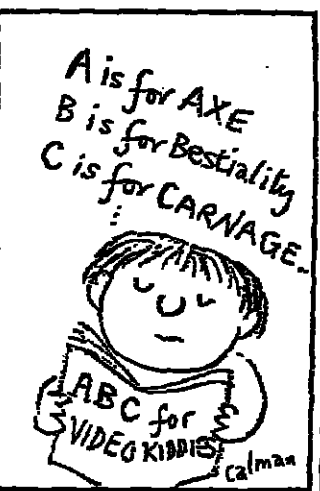
The two cosmonauts who spent five months in the Salyut 7 space station returned safely to Earth last night. Tass said Soyuz T9, with Vladimir Lyakhov and Alexander Alexandrov on board, had separated from Salyut 7 earlier in the day.

Italians seize Briton's home

An Italian judge ordered seizure of the home and land in Italy belonging to Mr Stephen May, husband of Mrs Jeanette May, pending a decision on whether to pay a £43,000 reward to the man who found Mrs May's body in January 1982.

Growth doubts

Slower economic growth, rising unemployment and higher inflation are forecast for next year by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, contradicting the Treasury's optimism. Page 17



Video nasties

Four out of ten children have seen video nasties, which are often shown at children's parties, it has been claimed. Page 3

Delhi warning

Mrs Thatcher dispelled Commonwealth hopes of establishing a new economic order and told heads of government in Delhi that there was no magic formula to transform world trade. Page 5

Blomqvist wins

Stig Blomqvist, of Sweden, driving a British-prepared Audi Quattro, won the Lombard RAC Rally which finished in Bath yesterday. Page 26

Leader page 13
Letters: On parole, from Lord Elton; Woolworth case, from Lady Phillips; faith, from the Rev B Thoroughgood, and others.
Leading articles: Norman Fowler on social planning; the INF talks; the NGA dispute.
Features, pages 10, 12
Taxes: cuts will come, the Chancellor tells *The Times*; Bernard Levin on masters old and new; Spectrum: a profile of artist John Piper.
Obituary, page 14
Dr T. H. Wills, Mrs Lucy Middleton.
Books, page 11
Sir John Plumb reviews Robert Rhodes James's biography of Prince Albert; Andrew Sinclair on fiction; Peter Brandon on F. E. Smith; Woodrow Wyatt on Woodhouse; Dr John Percival on Roman London; Tom Hutchinson on science fiction.
Special Report, pages 21 to 24
Telford and the M54 motorway, which opens tomorrow.

Home News	2-4	Law Report	28
Overseas	5-8	Parliament	4
Arts	14, 18	Sale Room	2
Books	9	Science	14
Business	16-20	Sport	25-27
Chess	4	TV & Radio	31
Court	14	Theatres	13
Crossword	12	Universities	8
Diary	12	Weather	32

Union ordered back to court over illegal picketing

● The National Graphical Association has been ordered to court tomorrow to explain why it has not paid a £50,000 fine for illegal secondary picketing.
● The TUC has pledged moral support for the union, but has held back from condoning breach of the law.
● The court action has been instigated by

Mr Selim Shah, proprietor of the Messenger group of newspapers, who accused the union of "bullyboy tactics".
● Newspaper distributors won an injunction against Sogat '82, ordering the union to stop "blacking" magazines printed by Mr Robert Maxwell's British Printing and Communications Corporation.

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The National Graphical Association, which has been ordered to appear in the High Court in Manchester tomorrow to explain its refusal to pay a £50,000 fine, has been promised TUC support in its dispute with the Stockport Messenger group of newspapers, although union leader are unenthusiastic about the prospect of a confrontation with the law.

Members of the TUC general council yesterday declared its moral support for the NGA but insisted that any practical help, such as financial aid, would be given only after emergency meetings of its employment committee and general council. There was scarcely veiled criticism of the conduct of picketing involving members of the NGA over the last two days.

Mr Len Murray, the TUC general secretary, said after the two-hour meeting that its policy was that "mass picketing is counterproductive". The union was also criticized in the House of Commons by Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment, who asked the House to join him in "deploping the disgraceful behaviour that occurred at Warrington and to reaffirm that such conduct has no place in industrial relations in this country and that the law must be observed".

But Mr Joe Wade, the NGA

general secretary, said that mass demonstrations outside Mr Selim Shah's premises would continue until the closed shop dispute was settled.

He appealed for peaceful picketing, but was adamant that the union would not pay the £50,000 fine imposed by Mr Justice Boreham in Manchester last week.

Some union officials believe the next step could be a further fine of as much as £150,000, although all parties in the dispute, which is rapidly becoming more serious, appeared to hope that peace talks to be arranged by the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service would take some of the heat out of the situation. Talks are unlikely to start before late tomorrow.

The only remaining area of disagreement is Mr Shah's refusal to reemploy six NGA members dismissed 21 weeks ago when they went on strike over a closed shop agreement.

The hearing in Manchester tomorrow will consider Mr Shah's application seeking leave to issue a writ of sequestration on the NGA for failure to observe a court order to stop secondary picketing that is unlawful under the 1980 Employment Act.

But Mr King told MPs yesterday that the court wanted to deal with the question of

Maxwell wins injunction

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

London's wholesale newspaper distributors yesterday won an injunction to stop the print union, Sogat '82, "blacking" the distribution of magazines printed by the British Printing and Communications Corporation (BPCC). Under the order, the union will have to halt the action immediately and return to work. The order was made by Mr Justice Boreham in the High Court.

The order, taken out by 11 companies, including W H Smith and Menzies, names as the defendants the union itself and the central London branch deputy secretary, Mr Edward Chard.

The Justice Taylor granted the order in chambers at the High Court in London and gave Sogat until tomorrow afternoon to appeal. But the order has immediate effect.

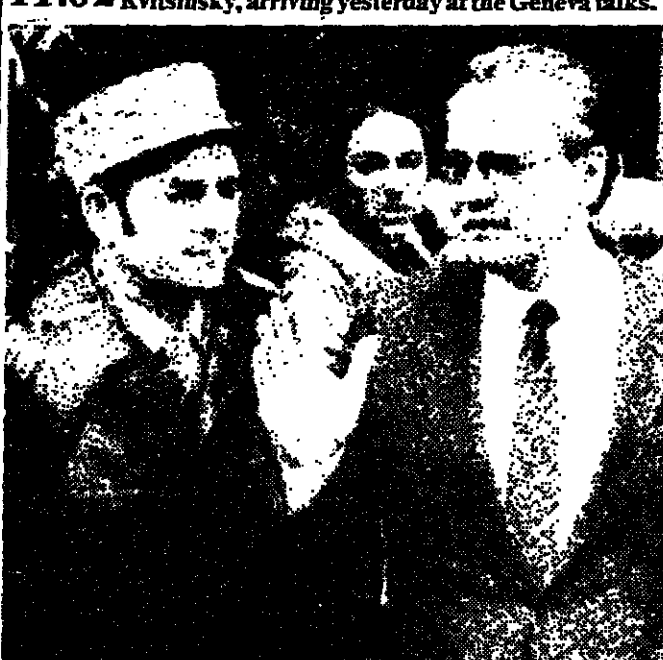
The court action has been brought under the 1980 Employment Act and follows "secondary action" by Sogat in sympathy with 550 workers at BPCC's Park Royal plant, in West London.

A small number of workers yesterday continued their sit-in at the plant, but Mr Robert Maxwell, the chairman of BPCC, has transferred typesetting of the *Radio Times* and *The Listener* to Wheatons of Exeter with the tacit approval of the national leadership of both Sogat and the National Graphical Association, the other print union involved.

A special meeting of the national council of Sogat is to meet tomorrow. Mr Williams Keys, the general secretary of the union, will repeat his advice that the blacking action should stop.



11.02 Going in: The Soviet negotiator, Mr Yuli Kvitsinsky, arriving yesterday at the Geneva talks.



11.27 Coming out: Jostled by newsmen he announces his Government has broken off the negotiations.

Nato tries to keep arms talks going

By Our Foreign Staff

Governments of Nato countries last night began taking the first steps to find means of keeping nuclear disarmament negotiations alive after the walkout by the Soviet Union in Geneva.

The expected breakdown came after a 25-minute meeting at the intermediate range nuclear force (INF) talks with the chief Russian negotiator, Mr Yuli Kvitsinsky, announcing: "This round has been discontinued and no date set for a resumption".

The Russian action, which had been often threatened, followed the vote in the German Bundestag on Tuesday night in favour of basing American Pershing 2 missiles in West Germany. Within a few hours of the vote the first parts began to arrive at the nine Pershing sites which are scheduled to be operational by the end of the year.

President Reagan said he was disappointed but not surprised by the Russian decision. "I cannot believe the walkout is permanent", he said before leaving Washington to spend the Thanksgiving holiday at his ranch in California.

The American negotiators would remain in Geneva. The United States would be ready to continue the negotiations whenever the Russians were ready to come back. He did not believe the walkout was permanent. "I think they will come back because they are aware as much as we are that there cannot be a nuclear confrontation in Europe", he added.

Jenkin backs down on green belt circular

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Secretary of State for the Environment, is responding to pressure from his backbenchers and withdrawing a circular to local authorities which has been seen as foreshadowing a relaxation of the Government's green belt policy.

He told the Commons yesterday that his original circular had been widely misunderstood and that it would be sensible to issue another.

His announcement comes after strong pressure from the three local authority associations, the Council for the Protection of Rural England, the Civic Trust, the National Farmers' Union, and more than 50 MPs.

At the start of the hearing, Mr Tate made clear that his colleague, Mr Kenneth Bloomfield, a former permanent secretary at the Department of Commerce, had not joined that department until February 1981 and he had not therefore been responsible for the initial negotiations with De Lorean in 1978.

Smoking 'killing more than 100,000 a year'

By Thomson Prentice, Medical Reporter

The Royal College of Physicians launched its strongest attack on the Government yesterday, accusing it of failing to help to prevent a "hidden holocaust" of death and disease caused by cigarette smoking.

The college said that 100,000 people in Britain die prematurely every year because of smoking, and called for government action on a problem which was "comparable with that of the devastating epidemics of infectious disease of the past". Ministers should "tackle cigarette smoking with the urgency once given to cholera, diphtheria, polio and tuberculosis", it said in its fourth report on the health risks of smoking.

Members said yesterday that the previous report, six years ago, contained seven recommendations, only one of which was put into effect by the Government.

The new report recommends a ban on sales promotion of tobacco, a steady annual increase in tobacco tax and reductions in the tar, nicotine and carbon monoxide yields of cigarettes.

It strives to alert almost every section of the community to the hazards, including non-smokers, and women and children in particular. It says

that non-smoking wives may be more likely to contract lung cancer because their husbands smoke, and that pregnant women who smoke, harm their unborn children and impair their subsequent development.

Children of smokers are more prone to chest infections, are shorter than their primary school friends whose parents do not smoke, and may lag behind them by six or seven months in intellectual ability at the age of 11.

The college says that the annual death toll in Britain caused by smoking is "not less than 100,000" and adds: "This figure is so large that it completely dwarfs the number of deaths that can be reliably attributed to any other known external factors such as alcohol, road accidents, or suicide."

Among 1,000 young male smokers in England and Wales, "on average one will be murdered, six will be killed in road accidents, and 250 will be killed before their time by tobacco."

The report's authors say: "With this vast toll of entirely unnecessary disease and early death it might have been thought that the Government would have acted swiftly and in a coordinated way to try to

continued on back page, col 1

Pensions protection pledged by Fowler

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Legislation to protect pensions of people who move from one job to another, as a wider ranging inquiry into the future of pensions into the next century, were announced by Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, yesterday.

The inquiry, which he is to chair and which will take evidence in public, will examine the age of retirement, changes in the age structure of the population and how that will affect the financing of pensions in future. It will also consider the possibilities of "portable pensions" by which individuals can identify their stake in pension funds and take it with them when they change jobs.

The inquiry, which is due to report by next autumn, would include treasury, employment and trade and industry ministers, and outside experts, Mr Fowler said. The intention was to make it "as open as possible".

The Government is expected today to object to a recommendation from the Commons Select Committee on Social Services that the pension age for men and women should be gradually equalized at 63, but that issue will go before the inquiry.

Mr Fowler said the inquiry would study "the future development, adequacy and cost of state, occupational and private provision for retirement in Britain, including the portability of pension rights, and consider possible changes in those arrangements".

A key issue would be changes in the age structure of the population over the next 40 years and how pensions should be financed.

Mr Fowler said: "The present projections show a patchwork, with falls as well as rises in the numbers of old people relative to the population."

While the proportion of those over 65 would remain more or less stable until about 2010, the indications thereafter are that the proportion of elderly would rise quite rapidly.

Estimates of future pension costs involved not only the age structure but assumptions about price and earnings increases. On the least favourable assumption by the Government Actuary, contribution rates could increase from 15.4 per cent to 21.9 per cent by the year 2025.

Meanwhile, the Government hopes to legislate in the next session of Parliament to protect those who change jobs but have to leave pension rights behind.

In addition, the Government is to publish a consultative document on providing individuals with more information about the pension schemes to which they belong.

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Appeal to PLO

Moscow urged the splintered PLO to settle its differences by political means, saying Russia would help "in every way possible". Page 8

Ferry strike

Cross-Channel ferry services from Dover to Calais and Boulogne were halted yesterday by a strike at the French port. The strike was expected to last 24 hours.

Border security

Two senior RUC officers have been drafted into South Armagh to lead the fight against terrorists in border areas. Page 2

Four out of ten children have seen video nasties, questionnaire reveals

By Kenneth Gosling

Hundreds of thousands of children aged between six and sixteen have seen video nasties, and, it was claimed yesterday, scenes of horrific violence and sex are often shown at birthday parties where they are replacing the conjugal as entertainment.

Figures published yesterday in a special report prepared for a parliamentary inquiry, show that four out of ten children in a survey sample had seen films such as *Driller Killer* and *I Spit On Your Grave*.

Dr Clifford Hill, director of the inquiry, said at a press conference in London yesterday: "Very often the films were shown at birthday parties, where the nasty has replaced the conjugal."

"Older children go out and rent them intending to shock the younger ones. I would say that in some homes, particularly where there are younger parents, the video cassette recorder is replacing the baby-sitter."

The report, which is the result of research set up by an all-party group from both Houses of Parliament, led the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Cogan, to say: "There must be many who peddle these things who know what they peddle and I would put those who know in the same category as those who traffic in drugs."

Lord Cogan was among members of the Lords who were shown a 20-minute police compilation of nasties.

The emphasis in the films was on violence rather than sex, he said. "They were not the blue film variety but there was a strong sexual element - rape and so on - and one of the dangers is that the child's introduction to sex is in the context of violence."

He said he had no doubt that the effect of video nasties would be seen in increasing violence in society.

A group of Coventry children, all aged nine, were questioned by their teachers about videos they had seen.

David said: "I like seeing people killed. I like it because it's more aggro."

Warren: "I like all the blood coming out."

Stevie: "I like the bit in *Driller Killer* where he puts a man up on sticks and he's like this (demonstrates pose) and then he gets drill and puts it through his stomach and he screams for ages. Then he dies."

Teachers appeared to have been amazed at what their discussions revealed. They had no ideal, they said, what the children had been watching; and they were extremely surprised at their lucid and lurid accounts of violence, and of bloody and horrific scenes.

The report is the first of three, issued now to coincide with the Video Recordings Bill, introduced by Mr Graham Bright, Conservative MP for Luton South, and given its second reading in the Commons a fortnight ago. Research was conducted with the cooperation of the country's education authorities and financed privately by the churches and other well wishers.

Questionnaires were answered by 6,000 children who were given a list of 100 most popular video films interspersed with 32 either found obscene or the subject of legal proceedings.

Questioned about exposure to individual videos - 17.7 per cent had watched *Bogey Man*, and more than eight per cent, *I Spit On Your Grave*.

The report refers to a 25 per cent increase in violent crime between 1978 and 1982 and the fact that of the world total of about 36.5 million video recorders, 6 million or 17.9 per cent are in British homes.

More detailed findings, using psychiatric evidence of the effects on children of viewing nasties, will be published next spring; but the interim report says a significant number of children of all ages described nightmares attributable to watching nasties.

The Rev Peter Liddell, deputy headmaster of a comprehensive school in west London, said he had spoken to 10 out of 13 children who had seen violent films on home videos.

"Several had dreams in which atrocities they had seen were carried out on them; others reenacted what they saw."

The report expresses police frustration at the length of time taken to obtain prosecutions in connection with suspected video nasties. And video dealers and distributors as well as the police were anxious for clarification on what constituted "a tendency to deprave or corrupt" as defined in the Obscene Publications Act 1959.

The report adds: "There appears to be a widespread view among the police themselves that they have all the powers they need to remove video nasties from sale or hire to the public. What they feel they do not have is what constitutes a video nasty - and this, they argue, can only be obtained by redefining the Obscene Publications Act."

It also comments that in addition to hundreds of thousands of children having seen films which have been legally declared obscene, the number would run into millions if these are added video films said to be unsuitable for children and those of a nervous disposition.

Video Violence and Children: Report of a Parliamentary Group Video Inquiry: Part One - Children's Viewing Patterns (P.G.V.E. Report Office, 58 Hanover Gardens, London SE11 5TN; £3 plus 75p postage and 10 copies write for bulk purchase list).



The van from which a security guard vanished allegedly with £48,000 in London yesterday (Photograph: John Manning).

Police seek missing security guard and £48,000

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

London detectives yesterday were hunting a security guard who allegedly vanished from his van with nearly £48,000 and left a note saying the money was his answer to impending redundancy.

The note, discovered after firemen cut into the armoured van, also contained an apology to the man's colleagues who had left him alone in the vehicle while they went to the Baker Street Underground station to see about a cash collection.

The guard works for Mint

Security yesterday he was the radio operator in a team of three men delivering and collecting cash from eight customers in the central London area. Just after midday the van pulled up outside the station and the driver and a second guard went inside.

The missing guard, aged 52 and originally from St Vincent in the West Indies, was left in the rear of the van. A colleague returned and called to him in the back but received no reply.

The guard thought that the man might be ill, but there was no way he could get inside the van because of the security system built into it. The police, an ambulance and two fire engines with special cutting equipment were called to the scene.

After nearly 30 minutes the van was opened up through a ventilation cowl and the disappearance of the guard discovered. Scotland Yard said they believed the man had walked away into the lunchtime crowds in the West End of London

carrying the money in three plastic shopping bags.

Mint Security, part of the Securicor group, said a total of £42,928 in cash had disappeared, plus £4,849 in cheques. The money had been carried in eight containers in the rear of the van as the crew went on their rounds.

The guard, who has not been named, lives in east London. A spokesman for Securicor said they were not aware of any redundancies being carried out.



Fire-fighting fit: Miss Julia Blanchard, aged 18, giving a helping hand yesterday to Miss Lynne Gunning, aged 22, after they completed their basic training with the London Fire Brigade. The two new fire

The Arts Council Urgent request for more cash

By David Hewson

The Arts Council said yesterday that it had asked for a 20 per cent increase in its cash grant from the Government amid pessimistic predictions about the future for many cultural organizations.

Lord Gower, the Minister for the Arts, is expected to announce a small increase in the Arts Council's present annual budget of £92m in the next few weeks. But the amount is likely to fall well short of the council's demands for £110m to correct what its chairman, Sir William Rees-Mogg, described as the serious underfunding of the arts.

Sir William said: "Many of the organizations supported by the council currently face very serious problems in maintaining their existence in the present restricted financial climate." But he refused to be drawn on how many might close if the

Arts Council's target was not met.

The council expressed its concern over the threat to the arts posed by the Government's proposal to abolish the metropolitan authorities, which are an important source of subsidy. In a response to the Priestley Report on the Royal Opera House and the Royal Shakespeare Company, it said that there was no prospect whatever of business sponsorship growing to fill the gap.

"The number of organizations in desperate need of substantially increased funds is greater than ever before. Thus, in the field of opera, the Royal Opera House's funding problem is not unique but part of a general financial crisis," it said.

Unless more money could be found, English National Opera and other companies would

have to suffer severe diminution of activity.

"In the field of drama, vitally important regional companies will be financially at risk; regional orchestras will be unable to escape widening budget deficits; the nation's dance companies will be imperilled; touring will have to be cut back impairing the viability of receiving theatres..."

However, it now seems certain that the immediate financial crises of Covent Garden and the RSC will be resolved without handing the companies over to direct funding by Government, as Priestley recommended. The Arts Council indicated yesterday that it was reluctantly willing to accept Government funds specifically earmarked for the two companies, for one year, in spite of the council's dislike of accepting grants for specific purposes.

BA freeze domestic air fares

By Michael Bailey

Transport Editor

An indefinite fare freeze in British Airways' domestic routes, including the Super Shuttle to Glasgow and Edinburgh, was announced by Mr Colin Marshall, the chief executive, yesterday.

BA domestic fares went up by 5 per cent last April, but the airline will now "hold them at their present level for as long as we possibly can," Mr Marshall said.

The freeze was possible because of improvements in productivity and substantial traffic gains on domestic routes, which expect to carry 3.5 million passengers this year, the airline said.

The staff has been cut by over a third, to 36,000 over the past three years, and trade unions have collaborated in exercises designed to cut jobs and introduce more flexible working practices on domestic routes, some of which might otherwise have been closed.

Pilots now carried out ground-handling of the aircraft, and cabin staff dealt with passengers in terminals, practices unheard of five years ago, as part of a staff reduction from more than 400 to under 200 on the Highlands and Islands division. Similar joint management-staff studies were going on in other divisions.

● Britain and Europe could be totally dependent on flags-of-convenience shipping to carry its goods and raw materials by the end of the century, Mr John Prescott, the Labour spokesman on transport, said yesterday.

Such a prospect was strategically and economically unacceptable, he told a shipping conference of the socialist group of the European Parliament, and steps must be taken to prevent it even if they ran counter to the Treaty of Rome.

Computer exam idea for slow learners

Young people taking the examinations of the future may find themselves poring over questions posed by a microcomputer linked to a television screen, a government conference on mathematics for slow learners was told yesterday.

The possibility was suggested by Mr Derek Foxman, leader of a new three-year project set up by the National Foundation for Educational Research to devise graduated tests in mathematics for less able pupils.

"The possibility of using microcomputers for test administration will be considered," he told a meeting in London of mathematics advisers, academics, officials of the Department of Education and Science, and representatives of teachers' organizations and examination boards.

The project is one of three being funded by the department at a cost of £500,000 in response to the Cockcroft report on mathematics teaching, which found that less able children are

ill-served by existing syllabuses.

Mr Foxman said that the new tests would represent a clear break with the abstractions of traditional examination papers.

Instead, pupils would be assessed on their ability to do everyday tasks. For instance, they could be asked to plan a family outing which would involve using a timetable and working out how much could be spent on meals and fares.

The tests would be graduated and pupils would have to be proficient at one level before tackling a more difficult problem. The certificates awarded would seek to give potential employers a clear statement of a candidate's achievements.

The approach was endorsed by Mr Robert Dunn, the Under Secretary in charge of schools. If all children were to understand mathematics and show their confidence in the subject, teaching had to be more closely related to the needs of employment and working life, he said.

Science 'taster' courses for girls proposed

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Schools should introduce courses to try to interest girls in science, Lady Platt, chairman of the Equal Opportunities Commission, said yesterday.

They could be introduced in the third, fourth and fifth years of secondary schools to stop girls giving up science subjects at examination level. They were also being established in universities and colleges, Lady Platt said.

Westland Helicopters had produced a careers pack designed to persuade girls to take up science technician engineering posts with the company.

"That type of approach is good, not only for the girls, but for the company too," she said.

The selling of Britain Tourism gets harder-headed

By John Sansom

The selling of British tourism has been reorganized by the Government into a much more hard-headed affair with the appointment of Mr David Black as chairman of the British Tourist Authority with a mandate for change.

Without a shake-up, many have argued, this successful industry would just carry on pumping "invisible" money into the Exchequer, getting little in return.

In future, the British Tourist Authority will be restricted to selling Britain overseas, and at the same time Mr Black will have responsibility for the English Tourist Board.

The BTA and the English, Scottish and Welsh tourist boards are also to become much more commercial in their outlook, seeing their business more in terms of marketing a

product rather than providing services.

A private equity fund is to be set up by City institutions early next year which would provide cash for important tourism projects. The development of more imaginative schemes outside London - such as industrial archaeology - is likely to be encouraged.

The merger of BTA and ETB would save up to £500,000 a year. Economies will come from the sharing of offices and the cutting of duplication. There are also likely to be redundancies.

However tourism chiefs in Scotland and Wales fear that England might get more than its share of promotion abroad from the BTA, a feeling already reflected in criticism from Scottish and Welsh MPs.

Money is also to be spent on revitalizing some of the more

traditional resorts. New sources of income will have to be found if a clash with local government spending cuts is to be avoided.

The industry's overall view of the reorganization is that it is fine so far as it goes but that the number of tourists and the revenue they bring cannot rise appreciably without some government concessions, such as a preferential VAT rate for tourist services.

In his last annual report Sir Henry Marking, who will retire five months early next March as chairman of the ETA, made a plea for that, pointing out that many EEC countries "recognize the importance of tourism earnings in their export endeavours", and have lower rates for hotels and restaurants.

The author is deputy editor of "Travel Trade Gazette".

Shoplifting charge dropped

A war heroine aged 83 walked free from a court in London yesterday after a chain store decided to drop a shoplifting charge against her in a private prosecution.

Mrs Joyce Murchie, a widow, of Redcliffe Road, West Brompton, was a member of the Special Operations Executive.

She was accused of stealing a £2.99 beret from the Miss Selfridge boutique in Brompton Road, Knightsbridge, on October 19.

But Mr Brian Stalk, for the prosecution, told Hoveferry Road Magistrates' Court that the store had decided not to offer any evidence against her. "She is a lady of 83, of previous good character and the goods alleged involved are small", Mr Stalk said.

Mock hanging inquiry launched

Devon Education Authority started an investigation yesterday into the mock hanging of a boy aged 15 from a tree in the grounds of his school, Tavistock comprehensive school, west Devon.

The inquiry comes after reports that Darren Wixon was photographed with a hangman's rope around his neck in a special projects exercise supervised by his art teacher.

Doctor's delay

Magistrates at Maldon, Essex, yesterday further adjourned the hearing of a drink-driving charge against Dr Robert Jones, of Coggeshall, Essex, until December 14. Dr Jones, aged 41, is also accused of careless driving.

Lee evidence

Bruce Lee, who is appealing against his 1981 conviction for the manslaughter of 26 people in 11 cases of arson, is due to give evidence for the first time in a court today.

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Tough nut to oversee big shake-up

By Mark Rosselli

Mr Duncan Black has been given a tough nut to crack as the man named on Tuesday as Britain's next tourism chief.

His brief is to rationalize the two agencies, possibly with a merger, and to produce administrative savings while at the same time continuing to supply the help and guidance that has made tourism Britain's most successful growth industry in the past two decades.

Fortunately, Mr Black is something of a tough nut himself, according to Mr Norman Lamont, the Minister of State for Industry with responsibility for tourism.

Speaking to reporters on Tuesday, Mr Lamont said he had been looking for a hard-headed and successful man from outside the British tourism industry, who could dispassionately review the work of the two agencies.

"What we wanted was a tough businessman who would



Mr Black: Outsider with impressive record.

be able to merge these organizations and make sure some of the economies were realized."

He found one in Mr Black, aged 56. He was educated at Taunton School, he served with the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve from 1944 to 1947, joined John Swire and Sons in 1948, and gradually rose to

eminence after working in Japan, Thailand and the Caribbean.

Since 1981 he has been chairman of John Swire and Sons (Hongkong) Ltd, Swire Pacific Ltd, Swire Properties Ltd, and Cathay Pacific Airways.

All have done remarkably well since he took over. Swire Pacific, for example, is the fourth largest company in Hongkong with interests in transport (including aviation), property and industry. Last year net profit after tax was \$281m, on a turnover of \$675m.

Sir Henry Marking, the retiring chairman of the BTA, said: "He is a likeable man with a very pleasant manner, and I think he is a very good choice."

"First of all, he is used to running big business, so he will be a good manager. He is a man with lots of commonsense and experience - not only of business. You want somebody who can take a very broad view."

PARLIAMENT November 23 1983

Print union told to observe law

NGA DISPUTE

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment, told the Commons that the conduct seen on the mass picket of the Stockport Messenger Group of Newspapers plant at Warrington the previous night had a place in industrial relations in this country. The law must be observed, he said.

The violence was also deplored by Mr John Smith, Opposition spokesman on employment, who warned that the dispute between the newspaper group and the National Graphical Association could spread rapidly.

In his statement, Mr King rounded the House that there had been a dispute over the past year between the Stockport Messenger Group of Newspapers and the National Graphical Association in connection with the establishment of closed shop agreements at the firm's subsidiaries at Warrington and Bury.

As a result of action taken by the union during the dispute, the Messenger Group sought an injunction against the union in the High Court. The injunction was granted requiring the union to desist from organising unlawful industrial action.

The court subsequently found that the injunction was not being observed and imposed a fine of £50,000 on the NGA for breach of the injunction.

The fine has not been paid (said) and I understand that the High Court has now directed that it wishes to deal with the non-payment of the fine on Friday of this week.

There have been intermittent incidents of intimidatory picketing at different plants culminating in the mass picket at Warrington last night. One policeman was seriously injured. I understand a number of arrests have been made.

Criminal charges have already been brought against those involved in earlier incidents and further charges may be made against those arrested last night.

In connection with the substance of the dispute, the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service has already been involved in seeking to assist the parties to a resolution of this dispute. I understand that the conciliation service is seeking to arrange a further meeting of the parties very shortly.

Whatever the arguments in relation to the dispute, I hope that all sides of the House will join with me in deploring the disgraceful behaviour that occurred at Warrington last night, to reaffirm that such conduct has no place in industrial relations in this country, and that the law must be observed.

Mr Fergus Montgomery (Aldershot and Sale, C), who raised the issue by a private notice question, said workers were offered the right to join or not to join the NGA. The union had a chance to put their case and after a secret ballot the workers

decided they did not want to join this union.

The union have now accepted this particular point and the point of difference seems to be the re-employment of the six people who withdrew their labour. On Sunday there was a 13 hour meeting between the two parties and Acas.

The employees in this organization are not happy to have these people back because for 20 weeks they have suffered harassment and intimidation from these people and their union bully boys.

Why did we enact the 1982 Employment Act if it is to be ignored by people like this? I hope the Government will make its position clear.

Mr King: Had it not been for the 1982 Act, there would have been no recourse for the Stockport Messenger Group of Newspapers against the original picketing and secondary picketing that took place and the attempts to break their contracts which were part of the substance of the complaint to the court against which the injunction was granted.

Whatever be the system of law, it has been accepted by successive parties when in government that picketing is only lawful when it is peacefully conducted, that intimidatory and obstruction are criminal offences and the law must be observed.

Mr Smith: A political inspired private notice question of this kind does not really help the solution of a serious industrial dispute.

Conservative MPs interrupted Mr Smith frequently forcing him to reply that those who proclaimed the rule of law should listen to criticism in reasonable silence.

We deplore violence (Mr Smith said) and extend our sympathies to anybody who is affected by it. But will Mr King recognise that the NGA issued a leaflet to those involved in the dispute which said: "On behalf of the organizing committee, it is requested that the demonstration remains peaceful and you are asked not to attack the building or be provoked into using violence."

This is an extremely serious dispute with the potential for spreading quite rapidly throughout this sector of British industry. It is one within the area of settlement

because what is at stake is no more than the jobs of the six NGA members dismissed by Mr Shah.

Mr King: I hope the further meeting that Acas are seeking to arrange may be helpful in resolving the core of this dispute.

I hope Mr Smith was not equivocating in any way on what took to be his categorical denial of violent picketing. The TUC have issued a statement condemning the use of violence. I hope Mr Smith will use his good offices and that of his friends to ensure every effort is made to prevent any recurrence of an incident of this kind.

Mr Douglas Hoyle (Warrington North, Lab): This is not in the constituency of Mr Montgomery who is interfering in my constituency. The bully boys in this case have been brought in by a paramilitary army of thugs with dogs and that inflamed passions. That is the reason violence occurred.

There could have been an agreement; he has admitted the union has been flexible and the TUC has been backing the union in this particular dispute. If the employer would not victimize these men but give them reinstatement, the dispute could be over tomorrow.

Mr King: This company is in three constituent parts. I am not going to enter into the merits of this dispute, which is a matter to be discussed by Acas.

It is distressing that he could get to his feet and not utter a single word of criticism about the scenes of violence which took place and which have no part in proper industrial relations in this country.

Sir Kenneth Lewis (Stamford and Spalding, C): Many of those picketing at the factory gate came from other parts of the country and were members of other unions, in fairness to the NGA, and it is against the law they should do that.

Mr King: Since the company concerned only employs 120 people, a picket of 1,000 or more must be in total breach of the present law. It is well known and accepted by all parties and all governments that intimidation and obstruction are criminal offences and have no place in peaceful picketing.

Mr Ronald Delington (Newham North East, Lab): We are dealing with an employer who reneges on agreements and the NGA has bent over backwards in this case to the extent that it accepts that employees at Bury and Warrington stay in their jobs and only new employees will be members of the union.

Seven members of the NUJ who had taken industrial action have been taken back by the employer, but the six members of the NGA have refused to take back - that is the sole issue in dispute.

It would be a pity to get an industrial Armageddon over six men. Not only will be bad for industrial relations but I am afraid

the state will be bringing off more than it can chew.

Sir Dudley Smith (Warwick and Leamington, C): In a democracy the law of the land is the law of the land. That is part of the background to the dispute. My interest in the matter is to see that the dispute about recognition or the closed shop issue is resolved in a proper way.

I am not prepared to condone and neither will the Government illegal or intimidatory picketing.

Mr Martin O'Neill (Chickmanning, Lab): My union, the NGA, regrets that anyone has been injured in the dispute but also recognizes that the TUC this morning has supported the NGA in the core issue - victimization of the six former members who have been dismissed.

Mr King: Acas, which is independent, is seeking a settlement. I hope that Mr O'Neill will use his good offices in ensuring that the NGA, pursuing an industrial dispute, as it is entitled to do, will do it within the law.

After the statement had been repeated in the House of Lords, the Earl of Gowrie, Minister of State, Privy Council Office, said: Acas has a role but nothing Acas can do can prevail against those who not only deliberately break the law but continue to encourage their members to do so. This is unforgivable and the Government will take all necessary steps to ensure that the law is observed.

The NGA, he said, had a particularly bad record in seeking to coerce employees in joining trade unions against their will.

The employees of the Messenger's (the added) were content not to proceed with the closed shop arrangements and the people causing the trouble, which was regrettable, came in from outside.

Mr Denis Healey, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs, said the statement was disturbing. The British Government had been arguing for four years that the moment the West began to deploy cruise and Pershing missiles, agreement would be reached in the disarmament talks.

It is clear (he continued) that it could not have been more wrong. In fact, as the Soviet Government frequently warned, it has produced a breakdown in the talks. The minister suggests that responsibility for the breakdown lies exclusively with the Soviet Government. But the British Government's refusal to allow its Polaris force to be included in the balance has been a major obstacle to the talks until last week. Only last week the Soviet Government at the last moment offered not to include British and French nuclear forces in the balance and to reduce the number of SS20s to half those deployed in 1979, and the

plans for the first phase of redevelopment of the Bridge Street site, Westminster, as parliamentary business was approved by the Commons early today (Tuesday). Total cost of the redevelopment will be £23m and take about five years.

Mr John Biffen, Leader of the House, explained the recommendations of the Select Committee on Science and Technology, which built on proposals by Sir Hugh Casson, President of the Royal Academy, and the Casson Conner Partnership for the site bounded by Parliament Street, Derby Gate, Cannon Row and Bridge Street.

He said that less than one third of MPs, other than ministers, had an office to themselves, and still fewer had offices within the Palace of Westminster.

did not in any way prevent successful small firms from making large sums of money.

The tax that was a big disincentive was at the lowest levels of income - the poverty trap and unemployment trap level. There was no doubt that tax at those levels was far higher than at the other end of the income tax scale.

The black economy and moonlighting had been going on for a long time, but it was a long way to undermine the very fabric of a civilized society.

Mr Maudslayi of Stratford-upon-Avon (C), in a maiden speech, said it was salutary to consider from what small beginnings some of today's great enterprises sprang.

It was doubtful whether many of them would have got off the ground if they had to contend with the complications, regulations, restrictions and Government-imposed costs which confronted the small businessman today. The need for action was obvious. He hoped the Government would rise to this challenge and so on.

Timetable for museum

Assessing the building work proceeding on the time-table envisaged, the Theatre Museum's Covent Garden premises should be ready to be opened to the public during 1986 or early 1987, the Earl of Gowrie, Minister for the Arts, told the House of Lords. He hoped it would be possible to let the building contracts very shortly.

Rate-capping

Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Secretary of State for the Environment, said during Commons questions that he would introduce legislation to implement his proposals on rate-capping.

had plenty of time. On his 34th birthday he won a pawn by an ingenious little combination and the rest of the game was a simple matter of technique for the older player.

Kasparov resigned on the 53rd move when it was apparent that he could not prevent his opponent queening a pawn.

Former world champion Vassily Smyslov seemed to have the better chances when the second semi-final game was adjourned on Tuesday night.

The veteran Smyslov, aged 63, had White against Hungarian Grandmaster Zoltan Ribli, aged 32.

Smyslov was moving much more quickly than Ribli and by the 20th move he had taken only 19 minutes, compared with Ribli's 1½ hours.

Smyslov now made a vigorous thrust in the centre by advancing his QP, but Ribli countered accurately. Queens were exchanged and Black (Ribli) looked to have some advantage.

However, Ribli expended too much time over ensuing moves and under the pressure of time allowed Smyslov to win a pawn, although Ribli managed to recover his pawn before the game was adjourned.

Mr King: I am aware of reports of ballots in both plants and reports which have said that the majority was against membership of the NGA. That is part of the background to the dispute. My interest in the matter is to see that the dispute about recognition or the closed shop issue is resolved in a proper way.

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Britain sees no justification for walk-out by Soviet Union

DISARMAMENT

The Government regretted the decision of the Soviet Union to withdraw from the intermediate nuclear forces talks in Geneva and could see no justification for it, Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs said in a statement to the Commons.

He said that the Russians might justify their interruption of the talks by the final preparation for initial western INF deployment. But the West had remained at the conference table while the Soviet Union had increased its own deployment of SS20s by more than 40 per cent.

The Nato alliance (he continued) has made its first priority the achievement of a balanced and verifiable agreement to reduce and if possible eliminate these weapons worldwide. At the same time we have made it clear that until such an agreement can be attained the Alliance will proceed in accordance with its decision of 1979 to work towards a balance which would safeguard western security.

We will not be deflected from achieving the first stage of this objective by the end of this year. But I wish to emphasize that the Alliance remains ready to halt or reverse at any time the deployment of the missiles if only we can secure an agreement with the Soviet Union which would allow us to do so. The achievement of such an agreement remains our unshakable objective. The Alliance will spare no effort to secure it.

We remain convinced that an agreement is possible and that it remains in the interests of East and West that the negotiations should resume at the earliest possible date. We therefore urge the Soviet Union to demonstrate an equally sincere commitment to arms control by returning to the negotiating table.

Mr Denis Healey, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs, said the statement was disturbing. The British Government had been arguing for four years that the moment the West began to deploy cruise and Pershing missiles, agreement would be reached in the disarmament talks.

It is clear (he continued) that it could not have been more wrong. In fact, as the Soviet Government frequently warned, it has produced a breakdown in the talks. The minister suggests that responsibility for the breakdown lies exclusively with the Soviet Government. But the British Government's refusal to allow its Polaris force to be included in the balance has been a major obstacle to the talks until last week. Only last week the Soviet Government at the last moment offered not to include British and French nuclear forces in the balance and to reduce the number of SS20s to half those deployed in 1979, and the

number of warheads to well under half.

How can Mr Luce possibly justify western governments rejecting this offer out of hand and leaving the proposal? This was a repetition of what they did with a similar proposal made after the so-called walk in the woods a few months ago.

Does Mr Luce really believe that this treatment of serious proposals by the Soviet Government is consistent with the sincere negotiations on disarmament to which western governments committed themselves in December 1979?

The decision to deploy cruise and Pershing is opposed by a substantial majority of opinion in both Britain and Germany, the two countries so far involved, and has done more to damage public support for the Nato alliance than any other action in the last 34 years.

But the Government now insist that the United States Government should offer not to deploy any more missiles if the Soviet Union will agree to resume the talks and that the West should then seek to take the least harmful step as a starting point in renewed negotiations which even at this late moment might save us from an acceleration and an escalation of a nuclear arms race which would threaten the security of the British people and present a great threat to the prospects for peace in the world?

Mr Luce said everyone waited an end to the arms race.

Should I find what I find surprising coming from Mr Healey is that he lays the responsibility on the western world for this morning's development and ignores the Soviet Union's role.

Since 1979 the number of SS20s has increased by 40 per cent. They are still increasing at an average rate of one a week. They threaten our national security.

Mr Healey should know from his wealth of experience that the prime duty of ministers and governments is the security of this nation. I am also surprised by his comments about the UK and French strategic nuclear forces because he knows we are not talking about like with like. Whatever proposals the Russians have put forward they still wish to retain a monopoly of weapons in the intermediate nuclear field, which poses a threat to our security.

Mr Julian Amery (Brighton Pavilion, C): Far from being scared by the Soviet walk-out in the talks, most people, especially in this country and Germany, will sleep more safely and securely in their beds now that we know the Soviet monopoly in these weapons is ending and some equilibrium is, though slowly, being restored.

No one must be in the least doubt as to the position of the Soviet Union to understand that the resolution of Britain and other western governments is to ensure the safety of our people. But allured to that is a genuine desire to seek an agreement which leads to a broad balance in weapons.

Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP (Plymouth, Devonport): For similar reasons and with some of the similar hesitation as Helmut Schmidt, I believe Nato has no other alternative other than continuing with the first stage of deployment.

Would the foreign ministers of Nato countries now meet and consider most seriously the possibility of declaring a freeze on the first stage deployment when they become operational, the 41 missiles, to allow time for the Soviet Union to reconsider its position and go back into negotiations and to hold a freeze while there is any chance the Soviet Union will negotiate a substantial reduction of SS20s?

Mr Luce: We have no alternative but to see deployment. We should be ready at any moment to respond to any possibility of halting or reversing this if we can get some genuine progress in discussions, and the sooner we resume the better.

There is shortly to be a discussion at Nato level and all these matters can be assessed in the light of what has happened this morning.

Mr James Callaghan (Cardiff South and Penarth, Lab): It is not time for us to consider very seriously the proposition half put forward that this serious decision by the Soviet Union to withdraw from the talks provides an opportunity for a pause and reflection and perhaps for a new forum in which these matters can be discussed.

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Circular might be revised

GREEN BELT

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, is considering whether it would be right to issue a second draft circular on green belt policy to local authorities as his original has been widely misunderstood.

Indicating this during Commons questions, declared that he was as committed as any of his predecessors to preserving a strong green belt policy.

Mr Hilary Miller (Bromsgrove, C) told him there was deep concern in district and county about the particularly vulnerable areas of the green belt in North Worcestershire, subject to attack from neighbouring authorities making proposals in the area to the calling in of an application for development on the grounds that more houses rather than less should be built in the green belt.

Mr Jenkin: I have made it abundantly clear that the draft circular is intended to strengthen and not weaken the green belt policy. I have taken careful note of the many comments made and I recognize the anxieties.

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Spain clips army's wings as opposition gives its reluctant approval

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spain's ruling Socialists and the right-wing opposition have agreed to some fundamental reforms of the country's armed forces, proposed in a Bill which yesterday began its passage through Parliament. As a so-called "basic law", it must receive a two-thirds majority.

Named the "Serra Reforms" after Señor Narciso Serra, the Defence Minister, the Bill represents the biggest shake-up of Spain's still politically sensitive armed forces since they ceased to be the backbone of the Franco regime.

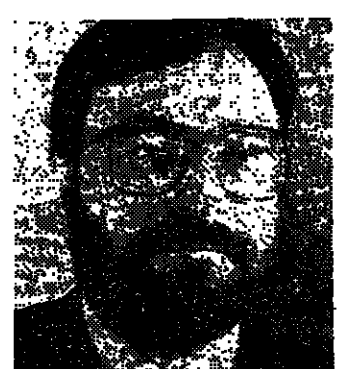
The Bill tries to clear up ambiguities about the supposed residual autonomous power of the armed forces by putting them firmly under the control of the Prime Minister, while creating the post of chief of the defence staff.

It will replace a timid Centre Democrat law of 1980 which left loopholes, notably exploited by the army plotters of the 1981 coup attempt, and end the continuing diffusion of power among the three services, still almost three "ministries".

The right-wing Popular Alliance at first accepted the reforms, defended by Señor Serra as essential if Spain is to have forces capable of fighting an external enemy like other European nations. But the opposition then began voicing a series of objections, interpreted here as responding to pressure

from its supporters, including those in the armed forces. Not all the differences have been ironed out and the Bill still has to complete its course through Parliament under urgency procedures the Government has ordered. Señor Serra wants to name the first chief of defence staff early in the new year.

The assertion of political control is one of the points in the Bill objected to by the



Señor Serra: Reward for patience

opposition, particularly as it appeared to restrict the prerogatives of King Juan Carlos as commander-in-chief.

The king's unique stature and close personal relationship with the three services makes this a delicate issue for all parties. Señor Serra, known as an

admirer of the king, said on television recently that it was an advantage that the monarch's powers under the 1978 constitution are not defined too precisely.

The Socialists have agreed there will be no changes in the king's existing powers. A grey area apparently remains, since the chief of defence staff would in wartime assume direct operational charge of all three services.

The opposition has in return agreed to accept the Socialists' demotion of the cumbersome joint chiefs of staff, headed by a fourth chairman, to a purely advisory role.

Señor Serra has been criticized for going slowly in his first year. But the creation of a defence ministry with real power devolving on the chief of defence staff, with control of the purse strings, personnel, arms purchases and the national defence plan, represents the main test of the patient Catalan's strategy.

He hopes to have the Defence Ministry functioning in one building, Franco's old Tourism and Information Ministry in the Castellana, Madrid's main thoroughfare, during the first half of next year.

No agreement has, however, been reached with the opposition over the reduction of Spain's nine military regions to five or six.

Life in the shadow of apocalypse

In the first of two articles on Zambia, Stephen Taylor examines President Kenneth Kaunda's pragmatic approach to the divisive issues in southern Africa.

While discussing his reelection as Zambia's President for a fifth term last month, Dr Kaunda took time to pour tea for about 30 guests on the immaculate lawn of Lusaka's State House, where antelope and peacocks wander in a setting of colonial splendour. "It's a rule," he said "Nobody leaves before drinking my tea."

ZAMBIA Part 1

After 19 years at the helm in Zambia, KK's personal style - a blend of disarming humility, devoutness, informality and occasional ruthlessness - has left its stamp on a nation that has become one of Africa's more open and tolerant one-party states. In the redrawn lines of conflict in southern Africa, he has also demonstrated a pragmatism which could keep lines of communication open between his more ideologically hard-line neighbours.

The reasons lie in recent history. A landlocked nation in the heart of Central Africa, Zambia has eight countries on its frontiers. In the past decade there has been full-blown war in four of them - Rhodesia, Mozambique, Angola and Namibia - and sporadic border troubles with a fifth, Zaire.

A Western diplomat says "Zambians have learnt their vulnerability the hard way. It tends to make them cautious



KK: Unmistakable personal style of pragmatism (Photograph: Bill Warhurst)

and sensible in foreign policy. They won't sup with the Devil, but they will talk to him."

Alone among the heads of the frontline states, President Kaunda has shown a preparedness to meet the hated South African leadership. Last year he met Mr Pieter Botha, the South African Prime Minister, under a marula tree. In 1974 his negotiations with the late John Vorster as an intermediary proved a watershed in Rhodesia, leading to the release of detained nationalists like Mr Robert Mugabe and Mr Joshua Nkomo.

The Rhodesian guerrilla war, which subsequently intensified, caused Zambia deep suffering. In a recent interview with *The Times*, President Kaunda said: "We were the front line". The pattern of that conflict may serve broadly as a model for future events in southern Africa: the defences of a poor, black nation playing host to nationalist guerrillas were wholly inadequate to prevent air raids and routine incursions by hardened ground forces of a desperate white administration. The closure of southern trade routes shattered a wobbly economy.

The front line has moved south now and President Kaunda speaks with the benefit of

having been removed from the sharp end, but his view is none the less apocalyptic.

"When the explosion comes (in South Africa) it will make the French Revolution look like a Sunday picnic," he says. "Millions could die, unless the West forces Pretoria to change".

Resolution of the Rhodesian conflict across the Zambezi has fully restored the friendship with Britain, although relations with the Mugabe Government have never become warm because of Zambia's earlier support for Mr Nkomo. Matters were not improved by a deliberate snub to KK on his last official visit to Harare when amid great pomp and ceremony the Zimbabweans named Railway Avenue, one of the city's shabbiest roads, after the Zambian leader.

Paramount now, he says is Namibian independence and the establishment of a non-racial society in Southern Africa.

The summit with Mr Botha must be regarded as a failure, the South African having ignored requests to release Nelson Mandela and Mr Walter Sisulu. The imprisoned ANC leaders who along with Mr Oliver Tambo, the peripatetic ANC president, were sometimes resident here.

But in spite of the criticism he received from Mr Mugabe and President Nyerere of Tanzania over the meeting, he has no regrets and believes the South Africans learn from contact with black leaders. "I would do it again without hesitation if I thought there would be a useful upshot," he says.

Tomorrow: The economy

Aborigines want mines not tourists

From Tony Duboué, Melbourne

Traditional Aboriginal land owners in the Northern Territory seem likely to come into conflict with the Federal Government over uranium mining. They have told Canberra that they want mining to go ahead.

On Tuesday, a meeting of more than 300 traditional owners instructed the Northern Land Council, an advisory body, to tell the Government that the proposed mines at Jabiruka and Koongarra should be allowed to proceed and not be included in a national park as Canberra proposes.

Mr Jacob Nayingul, a field officer with the council, said later that the traditional owners opposed the Government's incorporation of the two mines into the Kakadu National Park, about 140 miles south-east of Darwin, which is on the world heritage list. This effectively stops their development and is in line with Labour Party policy which calls for the phasing out of uranium mining.

"They want the mines, not a park", Mr Nayingul said. "The people said if they could not get the mines they would seek the equivalent amount of money that they would have received from them".

Plans outlined by Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, on Friday called for \$A70m (about £43m) to be spent over six years to develop tourism in the region.

Karen rebels set terms for freeing hostages

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

Anti-Government Burmese rebels yesterday announced new conditions for the release of a young Frenchman and his wife held hostage for five weeks at a jungle base near the Thai-Burmese border.

A spokesman for the Karen rebels said the couple would be put on trial for "collaborating with the enemy" unless France agreed to recognize the legitimacy of the Karen National Union and either stopped aid to the Burmese Government or began providing aid to the Karens.

The terms were conveyed to delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross, which was asked by France to act as a go-between.

General Bo Mya, leader of the rebel group, said that he expected a reply from France by Friday.

The general insists that the capture of Jacques Bossu, aged 26, and his wife, Martine, aged 24, was not a kidnapping but part of a political campaign against the Burmese Government. M Bossu was one of six French engineers working on a cement plant. The Karens have been in rebellion for more than 30 years.

Philippine ferry capsizes

Manila - A Philippines passenger ferry with 300 people on board capsized and sank off the southern island of Mindanao and almost 60 people are feared drowned (Keith Dalton writes).

Search and rescue operations are continuing for possible survivors from the Dona Cassandra which sank on Monday near Nasipit island, of Agusan Del Sur province, 550 miles south of Manila.

Commentary



Geoffrey Smith

New York

Is there any serious international pressure on Britain to negotiate with Argentina over the future of the Falklands? For the second year running, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution last week calling for talks between the two countries on the sovereignty of the island. Once again, it offered no reasonable basis for negotiations, referring only to the interest and not the wishes of the Falklanders.

But UN resolutions often require a degree of delicate interpretation. So before the vote was taken, I talked here to the representatives of a number of countries. They were in many instances the same people with whom I had discussed this question a year ago when essentially the same resolution was passed.

I was able to judge if there had been any change in the diplomatic atmosphere in the meantime. I have also subsequently discovered the American attitude in Washington.

If one were simply to go by the voting figures in the General Assembly, one might conclude that nothing had changed from last year. There were 87 votes for the resolution compared with 90 last year; nine votes against, compared with 12, and 54 rather than 52 abstentions.

This was encouraging for Britain. A UN resolution that is passed with so many abstentions loses much of its force. The outcome was even better than might have been expected because there had been some speculation that France and Italy might this year have voted for the resolution. But once again, they abstained.

Yet it is not quite the same as last year. The issue itself arouses less excitement. There will nearly always be a majority at the United Nations in favour of negotiations, any negotiations anywhere. But whereas, the Falklands were last year regarded as a major international question - though even then there was no expectation that there would be early action on the call for negotiations - by now, it has been overtaken by other crises.

No cause for British alarm

There will, however, soon be some new moves by the United States, which may cause some anxiety in London. A strong delegation is expected to be sent from Washington to the inauguration of the new Argentine President, and the embargo on arms sales to Argentina is likely to be lifted.

I believe it would be a mistake for British opinion to become alarmed by these developments. The United States is not about to provide supplies for a new invasion of the Falklands. There will still be careful controls through certification of the type of arms sold to Argentina.

The lifting of the embargo will be essentially symbolic, and a further gesture of friendliness towards the new democratic regime.

Gestures of friendliness can be taken too far. For concessions of substance in the hope of making Argentine democracy more secure might encourage the Argentines to imagine that they would get away with anything. For Britain to be expected to behave as if Argentine democracy was already secure, would be even worse.

But I found a more widespread appreciation than I had expected at the United Nations that Argentine democracy has as yet, no deep roots.

In due course, Britain will be expected to reopen a dialogue with Argentina. But there is no good reason to resist that idea, provided that the right conditions for talks are established.

If Argentina were no longer to regard itself as being in a state of hostilities with Britain, would simply need to avoid a commitment to negotiating over the sovereignty of the islands as the climax to such a dialogue.

Limited Discussions of this nature, with no obligation to touch the question of sovereignty, would not meet the requirements of the UN resolution. But that would not matter. International opinion and British interest would alike be satisfied by the former belligerents simply talking.

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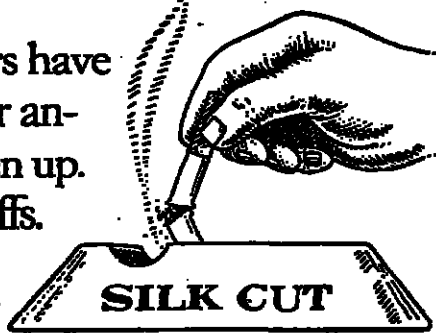
Most middle tar smokers have tried Silk Cut at one time or another. Quite a few have given up. Some after the first few puffs. Many after the first couple of packs.

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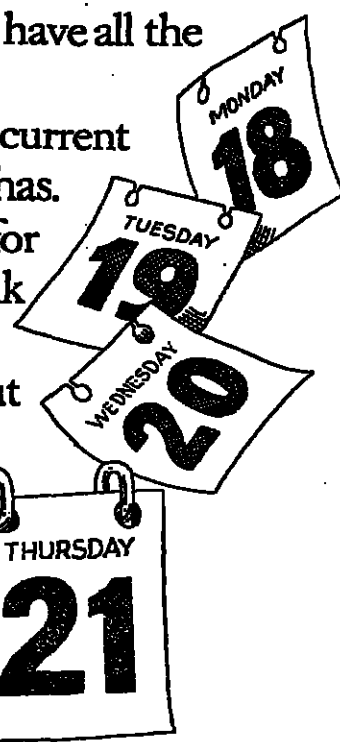
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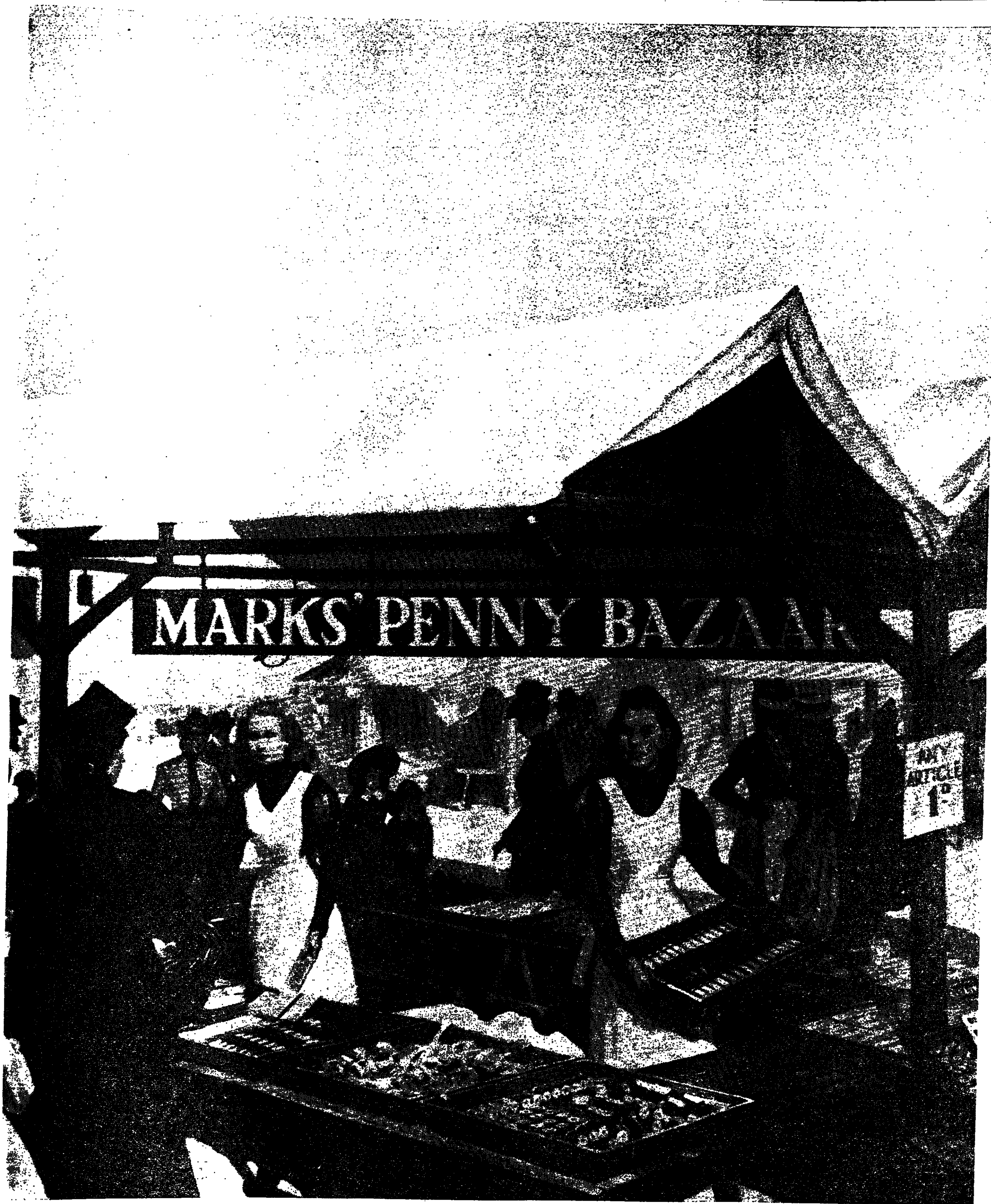
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A QUARTET ORIGINAL

مكتبة من الأصل



How British do you have to be to contribute to Britain?

Michael Marks was born in a Polish village. He arrived in Britain when he was 19 years old and couldn't speak a word of English.

He opened his famous penny bazaar in Leeds, the foundation for the world renowned Marks and Spencer stores.

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You don't have to have British parents to contribute to Britain.

IBM arrived in Britain in 1951. We've been making quality goods here for 32 years, from computers to cash dispensers.

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Like Marks and Spencer we use British suppliers whenever possible—11,000 of them in 1982.

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- 1982 investment £119 million.
- Britain's ninth largest exporter.
- 15,000 British jobs.
- Two British factories.
- 11,000 British suppliers.

IBM

Through a glass colourfully

The Times Profile: John Piper

A woman dressed in garish green steps out of a flinty church and directs me down a very steep hill. On either side and at intervals across the flanking hills spread flaming beech coppices. At the bottom of the hill an old farmhouse, wearing a glittering coat of flint and brick, takes centre stage. It had seemed a dull autumn morning when I left London.

John Piper is 80 on December 13. He has lived at Fawley Bottom, near Henley, since 1935. My sensation of entering a Piper painting as I neared his kingdom immediately and pictorially clarified the most important features of his work. He is a popular painter but not a fashionable one.

The figure who appears in welcoming manner at the farmhouse door reminds me of a very young, very clever undergraduate. He is thin, wears jeans and sweater and seems filled with expectant energy. On closer inspection, his face is drawn by the folds of age into extreme elegance, more so than in the photographs of his youth and middle age. His eyes are exceptionally blue and his hair very white. It is evident at once that the house and many outbuildings are all parts of his working empire. We sit in a converted hay barn, round a heavy iron stove. This is where he paints, hardly a studio as most people imagine and absolutely nothing to do with the de rigueur "North light".

As a boy, he took his "pushbike" round the countryside near Epsom, where he lived, and all along the south coast. He carried the guide *Highways and Byways* and it was his attempt to improve on its illustrations which led him into sketching. Later this aspect of his art was to continue in his relationship with John Betjeman and their shared editorship of the celebrated *Shell Guides*. However, first he was under pressure to follow his father into the family law firm. After his father's death, he felt able to enrol at the Royal College of Art.

There he found himself on what he describes as the "crest of a developing wave". The art world was living through a revolutionary time of change which no young artist could ignore. He took up abstract art to see what it had to offer him. But "I never intended to be a total abstract painter. I liked nature too much." His landscape painting continued but now they were collages, made out of strips of paper often torn up on site.

Nevertheless he and his future second wife, Mfwanwy Evans (he had a short first marriage to a fellow student) edited *Axis*, "A Quarterly Review of Contemporary Non-Figurative Painting and Sculpture".

Possibly, the strength of his success as an abstract painter can be gauged by the strength of the anger when he left the movement. "Caddish" is the way it was seen, or so he says now. "The belligerence and antagonism between abstract painting and the rest, round about the war, before, was so strong." This attitude was still prevalent in 1962 when an Arts Council publication described his postwar development as "a nostalgic retreat into insular sensibilities".

John Piper pinpoints the start of the war as the time he gave up abstracts. "I thought it was not a proper activity for

a youngish gentleman to go on practising." He wanted to be "useful". There was also the question of earning money to feed his wife and young son. Each abstract took three or four weeks, which meant not more than 25 completed in a year. "And, of course, I never sold any. And I didn't think that would do. Not that I prostituted my art."

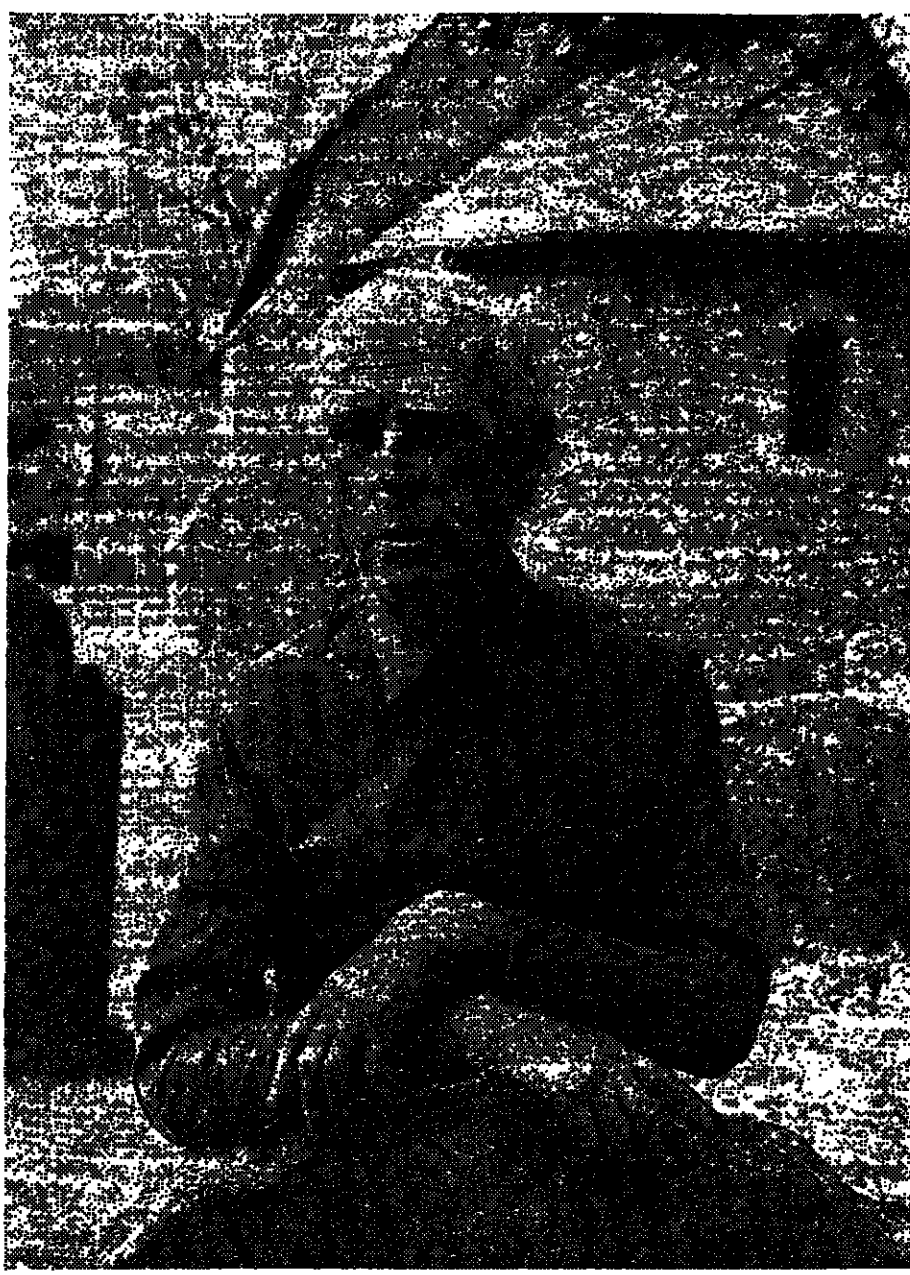
This fate worse than death was avoided by Sir Kenneth Clark's organization of "war artists". Some of Piper's most exciting oils stem from the period when he arrived at a still-burning Coventry or London and painted great cathedrals or cityscapes going through their death-throes. Here was not "pleasing decay" but something more frightening.

It was after the war, in the 1940s and 50s, that Piper became a figure in the art world. He was not only painter, but illustrator, writer, designer of stained glass windows. He was potter, he was stage designer - for the *Sitwells' Facade* and for many of Benjamin Britten's operas - he even designed materials for Liberty. John Piper has long got used to the inference "jack of all trades, master of...". Frankly, he doesn't care. But if pressed, he points to the great artists of his day, Picasso, Braque. It was the tradition in which he grew up. And there was "not a medium they didn't try. Good artists wanted to try everything."

This suggests the artisan's attitude that he brings to his work. He approaches his own and other people's work with simplicity. It is the technicalities of a profession that arouse his enthusiasm. There is the question of light, for example. The subject arises out of my probing his lack of world travel - he has never been in an aeroplane. He points out that Turner never went further than Naples and Constable never went further than the Lake District. He bids me look out of the window. We agree it is all right out there, a nice grey day, what Cezanne called "clear grey". Very typically English, our average. And it is this light, he says, with its high percentage of molecules of water, to which our eyes become accustomed. A painter either exaggerates or reduces colour from this mean. "It ruins an English painter's eye to get a glaring light."

Light naturally leads on to stained glass. Again talking in the most practical terms, Piper explains how he began experimenting in the medium because he wanted to see how colour altered when light came through it instead of reflecting off it. Later, in a second studio, he shows me two new pieces done specially for the show. One announces the birth of Christ, using a medieval onomatopoeic device, *Christ is Born*. The duck quacks, "quando, quando". The owl hoots "ubi, ubi" and the sheep bleats "Bethlem". He is obviously delighted with it. He points out that stained glass has always been a medium for the "grey countries of northern Europe."

Piper's latest exhibition at the Marlborough will be entitled "Romantic Places" with a detailed yet luxurious painting of his garden on the invitation. ("Not typical," says Tony Reichardt, who nevertheless has quickly bought it for himself) "Romantic"



Piper: mature before abstraction (Photograph by Snowden)

JOHN EGERTON CHRISTMAS PIPER
born December 13 1903
educated Epsom College;
Royal College of Art
1938 published *Shell Guide to Oxfordshire*
1941-42 Queen commissions water colours of Windsor Castle
1948 publishes with John Betjeman
Buckinghamshire Architectural Guide
1949 *Berkshire Architectural Guide*

1958 Windows of Eton College Chapel
commissioned
1961 Windows and interior of Nuffield College Chapel completed
1962 Coventry Cathedral window completed
1965 Designed tapestry for High Altar, Chichester Cathedral
1969 Designed windows for King George VI Memorial Chapel, Windsor
1976 published *Lincolnshire Churches*

is generally used as a term of criticism, suggesting a vagueness which conveys sentimentality without meaning, surface appeal without intensity. This is the approach that Piper ferociously labels "splash and doodle". He recalls that in 1942 he wrote a short book, *British Romantic Artists*. His editor, Kenneth Clark, suggested a first line: "Romantic Art deals with the particular." Piper feels this describes the core of romantic art and notes, incidentally, that an obsession with the particular is the only thing that saved Turner and Constable from being "splash and doodlers".

The particular of his painting has so often been a church that I want to ask about his own religious convictions. The word "conviction" however, is rejected as being too strong for his faith. "Leaving" might be more appropriate. In fact, both Mfwanwy and John Piper, under John Betjeman's influence, were christened and confirmed at the time of their marriage. They have stayed in the Church of England ever since but, I

gather, only just. Mfwanwy's respect for the English language is offended by the new forms of service and John doesn't much enjoy the people. They look for early morning services. On the other hand, John Piper admits to a few "revelations", hastily amended to "proofs" which hold him to a belief in God. They are not, this definitely stated, to do with his work.

Now Mfwanwy summons us for wild duck and salad. Mfwanwy Piper is part of the Fawley Bottom myth. Everyone talks of her essential presence, her huge mug-decorated kitchen, her inspired cooking. When I asked John Piper what she had contributed to his working life, he immediately suggested "acute intelligence". She is his first critic who has quite simply, always been there. She does have her "natural prejudices", her husband points out with definite pride. There is a particular green, for example, she can't stand. Her own career has been mainly as a librettist. She has just finished the first draft of a new

oratorio. But she misses the close collaboration she once enjoyed with Benjamin Britten.

Despite his literary housewife, the house with its giant-size rooms, its Caldera hanging like nursery decoration, its "joyous" Piper pottery (Quentin Bell's apt description), its two studios, crammed with work, past and present, is definitely the house of a painter not a writer. Mfwanwy has written recently: "Although our time is much less our own than it was 40 years ago, it is still, to some extent, lived as it were, largely owing, I think, to John's manipulation of order and chaos, and his very personal mixture of ruthlessness and conscientiousness."



Gouache of St Raphael, Dordogne, 1968

He is a conscientious subject to interview, still willing after our pudding of quince-flavoured apple to show me round the house and garden. Cezanne's "clear grey" has turned to something more threatening, making the autumnal colours even nearer Piper's own sharp tints. The flower beds are filled with dank remains, rows of outside sun-flowers drooping on no longer yellow heads. The desolate vegetable plot reminds Piper of its heyday during the war when they grew all their food. His past poverty is not forgotten. On the other hand this summer they had a gigantic garden party shared with their neighbour John Mortimer, who was celebrating his sixtieth birthday. "Thousands of people and no time to talk to them," murmurs Mfwanwy. They were given £5,000 worth of fireworks, which meant their names were writ large in the sky.

John Piper's eightieth birthday year is bringing him the kind of recognition from the establishment that he has not been previously accorded. His critics will say that this is a peculiarly British tribute paid to survivors. For them he will always remain an illustrator, a one-dimensional painter who has made full use of his vocation to draw attention to the British architectural heritage. His admirers will feel, just as strongly, that he has, at last, lived through the prejudice against non-abstract non-European art and can look forward to an ever-increasing reputation as a major artist.

Meanwhile, the painter himself, surrounded by a kingdom of his own creation, where the intensity of nature echoes his own unremitting concentration, will continue his very particular way.

Rachel Billington

A retrospective exhibition of John Piper's work will be shown at the Tate Gallery from next Wednesday until January 22.

Military support

Fifty-three per cent of the British public are in favour of the multinational military force, drawn from Britain, France, Italy and the United States being stationed in the Lebanon. A third (32 per cent) are opposed, according to a MORI poll taken less than a week after the bombing that killed over 200 American and French troops stationed there. And while 52 per cent opposed the US invasion of Grenada at the time, after the fact 47 per cent thought that the British government should support the presence of US troops there; 38 per cent thought it should be opposed. This "post facto" phenomenon was also seen at the time of the Falklands; after the task force sailed there was a sharp rise in the public's support for action.

Euro-apathy

A recent Euro-Barometer survey, published by the Commission of the European Communities, reports on a survey carried out across the member countries in March and April 1983.

The lack of both interest in and enthusiasm for the European Community in this country is explained largely by the answers to a single question reported in the survey.

Only 32 per cent of people in the United Kingdom feel that Britain has benefited from membership. This compares with 78 per cent of the Dutch, 69 per cent of Italians and over half of the people in Belgium, Denmark, France and Ireland. The majority (57 per cent) of people in the United Kingdom feels this country has the short end of the stick. Whatever the reality is, it is the perceptions that count in assessing public opinion.

Robert Worcester

The author is chairman of MORI. Details of fieldwork, dates and sample sizes are reported in Public Opinion Newsletter, published by the firm.

Services come first

Sceptics who believe that all the electors want is low taxes with no cuts in, or regardless of the effects on, public services, should take heed of a recent MORI poll for the *Daily Express*. This found that 61 per cent of the public preferred to "maintain spending on public services, even if this means an increase in taxes" rather than to "cut taxes, even if this means a cut in spending on public services" (30 per cent). It might be suggested that nearly half the population don't work and therefore don't pay taxes, so might be largely responsible for this result. Not so. Those not working, the housewives and pensioners, were no more likely to favour the tax increase option than those working, and 53 per cent of those unemployed or unable to work were actually less likely to favour the option.

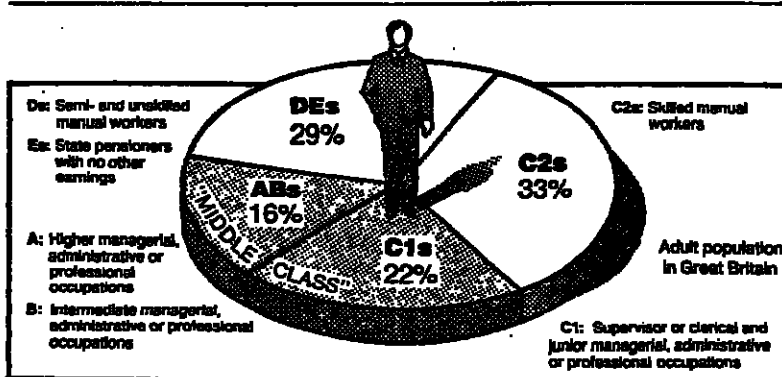
Plain speaking

The Prime Minister has said she prefers "denationalization" to "privatization". But what's in a word? One of the psychological/semantic discoveries pollsters have made over the years is that no matter how the politicians play with words over the issues of nationalization, the public seems to know clearly what is meant. A decade ago, when MORI measured support for "nationalization", it was contended that "nationalization" was a dirty word and that we would get very different results if "public ownership" were used instead. Intrigued by this, we used a split ballot technique, asking half of a sample of the public the degree to which they thought companies should be nationalized, and the other half whether or not companies should be taken into public ownership, holding everything constant except the two alternative phrases. We found virtually no difference.

More recently, privatization has been the Government's code word for denationalization. On a recent similar survey, MORI found little difference in public reaction to the two words.

FINDINGS

A series reporting on research: PUBLIC OPINION



The ABC guide to social class

There are frequent references in stories of psychological or sociological bent that refer to social class designations in Britain. There is nothing sinister about this and it is true that many people do not believe themselves to be in a social class or if they do, consider it to be irrelevant. It is a useful demographic classification for marketing and sociological purposes however. Traditionally, social class is based on and used constantly in this way by researchers operating under definitions used by the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising (IPA).

So-called ABs are defined as the higher managerial, administrative or professional occupations (A) or intermediate managerial, administrative or professional occupations (B). C1s, lower middle-class, are "supervisor or clerical and junior managerial, administrative or professional". The ABs represent approximately 16 per cent of the adult population in Great Britain and

Swing factors

During elections we hear a lot about the concept of "swing", which is the percentage (number of people out of 100) who have changed over between two elections or indeed two points in time. Two examples are in the news at the moment. The swing measured by

Gallup against British Telecom's privatization between December and October is 64 per cent, calculated by the net change between those thinking privatization a "good idea" and those who think it bad.

More recently, a MORI poll taken just after the American invasion of Grenada found a swing of 4 per cent against sitting cruise missiles here since a similar question was asked in May during the election.

moreover... Miles Kington

In the box - and on it

Television people suffer from split minds about their audience. They care deeply about the numbers of people watching, but they care not a fig about what the people are thinking while they are watching - that is, they worship the ratings but have no time at all for the opinion of the public. There is nothing in television to correspond to the importance of *The Times* letter page.

Channel 4, however, who would all commit suicide en masse if they worshipped ratings, have a slightly more enlightened attitude to viewers. Critics of the channel would say that with a smaller audience they are more able to deal with their viewers on a personal basis, but what I am thinking of is the fact that the only programme actually made by Channel 4 is *Right to Reply*, a forum of viewers' opinions, and that they have just installed a tiny studio in the foyer of their offices where members of the public can go in and record a minute's worth of praise or criticism.

This Video Box, as it is called, represents a breakthrough on two major fronts, one intentional and one not. First of all, it means that any comment from a viewer will be spoken by the viewer personally and not enacted by a repertory speaker. Liz Forgan, who dreamt up the idea for Channel 4, once had a letter read out on the BBC's *Points of View* in a voice not at all like her own; when she objected she was told that the voice chosen for her letter was "Reigate Sympathetic". I suggest that people who write to the BBC in future should specify whether they want their letters read in Glasgow Incoherent with Rage, Laidback Leamington, Resigned Welsh, Hampstead Concerned or Midlands Unisex, though of course the best way of getting your letter on air still remains adding Aged 12½ in brackets.

But the other effect of Forgan's *Revenge* will be something that Channel 4 have not dreamt of. They are expecting viewers' reactions. They are hoping for contributors like the Bishop of Edmonstone, who was filmed in a promotional 60 seconds complaining that American football, which he loves dearly, clashes with evensong. They are dreading drunken Sobiesites coming in off Charlotte Street and recording incomprehensible rambles. What they do not seem to anticipate is the appearance of people who simply want to audition for TV.

If I object to the standard of newswriting on TV, for instance, I would not go into the Video Box and complain about it. I would go in with a news bulletin, read it brilliantly and leave my phone number. If I thought there should be more bridge on TV, I would take in three friends, deal a quick hand and come to blows over the bidding, if there was time. If I wanted to see more motor bicycle racing on Channel 4, I would - no, there's probably a limit to what you can do inside a video box.

But I fully expect that in the next few weeks, Channel 4's Video Box will be deluged by.

People recently released by breakfast TV programmes who have got into the habit of rising at 4am and now have nowhere to go.

Pop groups who can't get on *The Tube*. Ex-Nationwide stars.

Dr David Owen.

Film producers with trailers of their documentary on all-Latin American, lesbian football teams.

Members of the royal family who can't get their books published.

People who have just had books published but can't get on *Start the Week*.

Post-Alexei Sayle stand-up comedians.

Tam Dalyell.

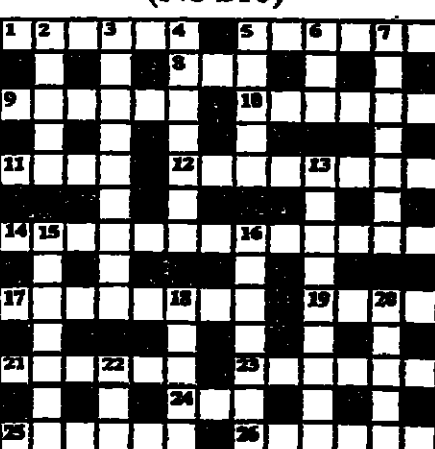
Buskers who can't find a pitch.

People who want to open a new small restaurant in Soho but can't find premises, now this Video Box is the sort of thing they're looking for and what sort of rent would Channel 4 want?

Harry Evans.

Personally, I shall be trying to get them interested in this sitcom I'm writing about the hilarious goings on at an alternative self-sufficiency farm in Wales.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 210)



- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Dealer (6) | 2 Lift (5) |
| 5 Ornamental awning (6) | 3 Misuse funds (9) |
| 8 Fabricate (3) | 4 Selfish driver (4,3) |
| 9 E Nigerian region (6) | 5 Adhere closely (5) |
| 10 Pierce with spike (6) | 6 Pluck (3) |
| 11 Whimper (4) | 7 Fur-trimmed cloak (7) |
| 12 Mayo-stirred (4,4) | 8 Storage lake (9) |
| 14 Chinese Nationalist leader (6,3,4) | 9 Peaceful (7) |
| 17 Helpless (8) | 10 Peace lavishly (5) |
| 19 Abundant (4) | 20 Ruff (5) |
| 21 Young swan (6) | 22 Maiden name (3) |
| 23 Of sexual desire (6) | |
| 24 Boat blade (3) | |
| 25 Reveal (6) | |
| 26 Registers (6) | |

SOLUTION TO No 209

ACROSS: 1 Fictish 4 Tornado 7 Flip 8 Randomly 9 Ceramics 12 Hen 15 Patois 16 Zimmer 17 Tor 19 Maverick 24 Colossal 25 Adze 26 Dragon 27 Tablet
DOWN: 1 Fife 2 Trimester 3 Harem 4 Tonic 5 Moot 6 Tide 10 Atom 11 Shift 12 Homocidal 13 Nark 14 Spot 18 Odour 20 Arson 21 Edict 22 Long 23 Felt

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BOOKS

Sir John Plumb and Piers Brendon review the big biographies of the week: Albert the Good and Birkenhead the Bad

The jury is still out on Albert

Albert Prince Consort
By Robert Rhodes James

(Hamish Hamilton, £12.50)

The day of death kept sacred with the visit to the Mausoleum with her daughters; his gold watch ticking away the night at Osborne even as she lay dying; remembrance of the excessive passion which Queen Victoria brought to everything she said or felt, no-one can doubt or, indeed, has ever doubted, the love which Victoria felt for Albert from that first morning when she asked him to marry her, kissing him over and over again on his acceptance. She loved him body, heart and mind. Her love gave her remarkable insights into his problems and difficulties, that he could never be her husband in the true Victorian sense of the word. No matter how besotted with his beauty, Victoria was Queen and knew it. He had to take the secretaries appointed for him; he had to wait before he was allowed to see any confidential papers; he was discouraged from speaking to ministers on all matters political. From the start, as Robert Rhodes James makes so plain in his excellent biography, his position was one of exceptional difficulty for a very young, inexperienced Prince who disliked the climate, the habits and the people amongst whom he had come to live.

Fortunately he was a man of quite exceptional gifts - he had talent for everything he turned his hand to - and perhaps fortunately not quite genius for anything. As it was he found the difficulties of his position and of Queen Victoria's temper almost impossible to bear as may be seen from one terrible outburst on his daughter Victoria's illness, printed by Rhodes James, that escaped the destruction of his more intimate personal papers. Lacking the over-riding egocentric drive of genius, his talents acted both as a distraction and as an emollient in his complex life - but how remarkable they were. He composed good music, from *Te Deums* to charming *lieder*; he designed jewellery and the Victoria Cross (which was his idea) as well as palaces and cottages; he drew, and another, not quite so well as his wife, he became passionately involved with the role of arts and sciences in the life of the nation and we owe to him the acres of museums in South Kensington. He was artistically adventurous, collecting early Italian Renaissance pic-



The problems of being married to the Queen: Albert surrounded by her family, an engraving from Winterhalter's painting of 1846

tures long before they were fashionable but saw at once the beauty and originality of Paxton's ultra modern Crystal Palace; his support of the revival of fresco painting was admirable in intent if less successful in its expression.

Steadily and remorselessly he took his rightful place in the political affairs of the nation; he as much as anyone was responsible for preventing the "Trent" affair becoming a war-issue at the time of the American Civil War by drafting a memorandum for Victoria more or less on his death-bed.

He was intelligent, wise, gifted, handsome beyond the common run of princes, and yet what popularity he had was wrung reluctantly from the nation he served. His accomplishments are even more remarkable when we recall that he was dead at 42. His life is a wonderful subject for a biography and Rhodes James weaves sympathetically and with skill the rich tapestry of his activities. He also destroys some of the myths that have clouded some historians' vision of the Prince Consort. His childhood was far from being unhappy - indeed the reverse, in spite of the disaster that his parents made of their marriage. Rhodes James also shows how capable Albert was of very

deep and strong affections from childhood onwards. And yet there is no doubt that his rest for living had almost gone by the time he was 40 - indeed Queen Victoria who loved being alive, quickly recognized that Albert did not.

And so there is the enigma of the extraordinary man, so gifted, so successful, yet lacking the desire to live. Without deeply intimate personal papers no one can do anything but hazard a guess why, considering both his talents and his position, Albert lost his lust for life. Perhaps he never had much.

Rhodes James gives us all the evidence but does not impose his own solution. One can only guess - for myself I think that Albert may have been a deeply narcissistic character, meaning that in no pejorative sense. But often narcissistic characters find passionate devotion such as Albert got from Victoria hard at times to bear, yet his image of himself as a model and virtuous prince, his most treasured possession, forced him to bear it. But one could so easily be wrong. Read this fascinating biography and see if you can find the key to this extraordinary complex man, certainly the most gifted and talented of British Consorts, and in some ways still the most mysterious.

A fluent and plausible bounder

F. E. Smith
First Earl of Birkenhead
By John Campbell
(Cape, £30)

So many history books are published these days in which every sentence, sometimes every paragraph, screams for revision, that it is tempting to believe that the practice of writing coherent English is dying out among historians, as it has long since died out among literary critics. What a joy, then, to find a young scholar producing over 800 pages of trenchant, and often vivid prose with scarcely a stylistic hiccup in sight. True, John Campbell's case for writing such an excessively long biography is not justified by the intrinsic importance of his subject. But his manner triumphantly sustains his matter.

In a sense, this was also true of the character and career of F. E. Smith, though Dr Campbell perhaps too much his partisan to admit it. Smith got by on superficial brilliance rather than substantial ability. He was always superbly self-confident - as a schoolboy he was kicked by his fellows for announcing that he was going to be Lord Chancellor. At Oxford he slicked down his hair, eradicated his Lancastrian accent, and became a "howling swell" at the Union, on the rugby field and in the academic sphere, all accomplished with dazzling panache.

Then followed his speedy and richly-rewarded rise at the bar, though he started in the great cases (except as prosecuting Attorney General in the trial of Sir Roger Casement), and was quite willing to betray a client, as he did while supposedly acting for Lever against Northcliffe, when it was in his political interest to do so. Yet, Campbell argues, Smith was a serious scholar and "a truly great lawyer". Raymond Asquith's estimation of Smith as "the most fluent and plausible bounder" seems more apt.

Of course, there is no denying Smith's immediate success in the House of Commons, which he entered in 1906. His celebrated maiden speech so delighted his own side that (as a journalist noted) for a while even Carson looked almost human. Yet from hindsight his rhetoric seems largely a compendium of cheap glibes and impudent special pleading, the effectiveness of which was mainly due to the unexpected flip it gave to Tory morale after the Liberal landslide. Similarly, when one examines the content of Smith's political philosophy it turns out to be a dismal, clichéd form of neo-Darwinism. Smith thought might was right in Ireland, regarded women as male playthings who should not have the vote, and would not take Indians seriously at all.

Such views proved no bar to rapid progress in Parliament and Smith eagerly grasped each glittering prize as it presented itself. By 1919, when he was only 47, he had landed (as Lord Birkenhead) on the Woolsack. "Should I be as drunk as a lord," he supposedly asked (his *bons mots* were embellished by himself and others), "or as sober as a judge?" He was a bit of both, an outstanding Lord Chancellor who distributed the ecclesiastical patronage in his gift on the basis of the cricketing skills of the clerics concerned. No really solid political achievement can be credited to Smith, unless it was his contribution to the treaty with Sinn Féin in 1921. After that date his arrogance and boorishness became almost unbearable, even to members of his own party. By 1930 he had drunk himself into an early grave.



The Smith a mighty man was he: brilliant but unsound, a clever chap whose brains had gone to his head

member of the ignoble freebooter" by this "filthy little Socialist". Like the excellent biographer he is, Campbell does not blink at facts hostile to Smith though he comes down broadly in defence of "the real F. E.". However the mass of evidence which he has accumulated might more plausibly be said to bear out the Asquithian view - that Smith was brilliant but unsound, a clever chap whose brains had gone to his head.

Woodrow Flits By

The World of Uncle Fred
By P. G. Wodehouse
(Hutchinson, £9.95)

Wodehouse Nuggets

Selected by Richard Usborne
(Hutchinson, £6.95)

Uncle Fred deserves to be better known. Perhaps not in the class of Lord Emsworth, Jeeves or Bertie Wooster, he ranks somewhere near Penzance and about Ukridge. In 1936 in a short story *Uncle Fred Flits By* Wodehouse released him from his brain. Like so many Wodehouse characters he seems to have been lurking there all the time, not so much waiting to be invented as waiting impatiently for his cue to come on stage. Three years passed before his impresario gave him his first full length performance, nine and ten years respectively before his next two, and another four years before his last. In 1962, though Wodehouse still had thirteen years left to tell us more if he had not been so stingy with Uncle Fred.

Uncle Fred was a natural genius at solving problems. Jeeves solved his by deep thought, drawing on all his great learning and, according to Bertie Wooster, eating a great deal of fish to keep the brain lively. Uncle Fred's approach was entirely spontaneous, relying heavily on his favourite weapon: impersonation. He felt it unsporting to visit suburban villas or a country house under his own name. He liked to lure others into the impersonation job, too.

All Uncle Fred's optimistic plans to iron out difficulties began by making them far more complicated. Heroes and heroines found themselves entangled in growing webs of deception from which escape became less and less likely. But escape they did with Uncle Fred pulling off sanguine coups at the moment even the most trusting of Wodehouse fans is beginning to wonder whether they really can be pulled.

Shakespeare's characters are as memorable as Wodehouse's, but the latter's plots are much better. I have no difficulty in believing nearly everything in Wodehouse but I am hard put to it to understand the extraordinary behaviour of Hamlet, et al. Uncle Fred is a perpetual undergraduate eagerly looking for fun, whether sober or semi-sober, and with a stronger bent for doing good however much harm it causes. Bill Bailey, a penniless curate in

Service with a Smile (sadly not included in the Omnibus) may go through the tortures of *Uncle Fred* having his disguise as Cuthbert Moreweather from Brazil penetrated by Lady Constance at Blandings Castle, but the angel Uncle Fred, responsible for his predicament, will put him out of his torment and win him Myra, the American heiress in the end.

Why did Wodehouse not arrange for Uncle Fred's wife, Jane (who understandably broke off their engagement eight times) to allow her closely guarded husband more outings? It couldn't have been concern for Jane because none of his escapades inconvenienced her though they shattered his. Perhaps P. G. Wodehouse ever tell us what really happened at the Dog Races when Pongo and Uncle Fred were arrested and gave false names and addresses which led to disaster for both of them in *Uncle Dynamite*, when they were recognized by the same Constable Potter, now on duty in the country, who had arrested them at the famous but unchronicled incident.

Only once does Uncle Fred behave out of character. He was an innocent snob who loved to proclaim, when not pretending to be someone else, that he was the 5th Earl of Ickenham and to recite the glories attaching to that privileged position. But in *Cocktail Time*, when quite sober, he tries to persuade Albert Peasebush, Sir Raymond Bastable's butler, to call him Fred. True he had known Albert when he was a ship's steward and had served in the Home Guard with him, and Albert was eventually to marry Sir Raymond's sister, but was it proper for Uncle Fred to want the butler to address him by his Christian name? Albert evidently thought not, compromising with, "when he could remember it, 'Mr I'".

Uncle Fred ambles among the aphorisms in *Wodehouse Nuggets* compiled by that accomplished Wodehouse scholar, Richard Usborne. This publication proves that there are almost as many quotations in Wodehouse as there are in Shakespeare. It should be kept by the side of Richard Usborne's *A Wodehouse Companion*. Many a winter evening can be passed teasingly matching its neat synopses of Wodehouse's books and summing up of the characters with their illuminating sayings in *Wodehouse Nuggets*.

Woodrow Wyatt

Despair and black humour from Poland

A Minor Apocalypse
By Tadeusz Konwicki
(Faber, £8.95)

The Compromise
By Sergei Dovlatov
(Chatto & Windus, £7.95)

A man with his mouth open, seen at a distance, in Poland perhaps, might be laughing, protesting, shouting in a nightmare, or howling with pain. Tadeusz Konwicki is doing all at once. *A Minor Apocalypse* is a minor masterpiece of rage and despair from Eastern Europe. Poland must immolate itself to be free, but what price immolation when the Poles are already free because they have imposed their own slavery? At the end, before the final pyre of himself, the writer has a vision of a God created by people in all their suffering and complexity. From that God of people may come the only mercy that Poland may expect.

"An honest journalist only sells out once," Sergei Dovlatov attributes the remark to the guru Henry Ford. It is not true in Estonia. There the comrade reports sell out at full blast every day. "A journalist says sincerely, 'What the hell does not believe.' Each episode in *The Compromise* begins with the official printed story in *Estonian Youth* or *Soviet Estonia*, then tells the truth of how the story was written by its anachronistic, drunken correspondent. He finds himself carrying the coffin of the wrong dignitary

noble doubts, blessed uncertainty, divine mediocrity, when to have a character is tyranny. Nobody has even the inner strength or moral right to be a beggar. There would be hardly any sense in dividing the match that will light the petrol that will burn the hero. "Scarcely every third one lights as it is."

Figures are relative in Russian. Estonia. The certainty is vodka, vodka, vodka all the way to the next hangover. This series of connected stories about reporting in a Communist colony is hilarious and reassuring. Inefficiency is fatal, organization absent, untruth all, and the Party Line knotted. The road to death, the narrator observes, is paved with meaningless news briefs.

The *Natural Man* by Ed McCannan (Cape, £7.95) is heralded by a rather flimsy foreword of distinguished critical noises from the United States. The abominable hulk Monk McManahan erupts into a Kentucky small town. He can shoot more pool and baskets and break more heads and wind than any teenager in living memory. His scribe is the adolescent girl-crazy Harry Eastep, who chronicles the earth exploits and smutty wisecracks of the Monk.

Harry is not Holden Caulfield. His language is both elegant and overstated while his dialogue would shame a barnyard. This is hardly *The Catcher in the Rye*, although it might

Fiction

Don Buono is a novel of a Brazilian Oedipus. A male child is always born to a deserted woman. Whatever his true name, whatever evil he has done, he will be called Don Buono. He will then travel for no good reason after begetting another male baby. He will meet his fate, which is to kill accidentally a crazy old man, who has provoked him into the killing and whispers his son's name with his last breath.

Zulfikar Ghose writes with erotic power and malevolent observation. In the jungle, jaguars mate in torment, screaming and tearing at each other. Human beings are no different, burning with desire and brooding lust. They are doomed by the fierceness of their want. Years of good actions are denied by one mad rape. Carnality rules. *Don Buono* is not a journey into the heart of darkness, but into the fatality of sexual need and its retribution.

Andrew Sinclair

Science fiction

Topsy-turvy worlds

Midas World
By Frederick Pohl
(Gollancz, £7.95)

Here is a conceit stretched to the limits of tolerance as metaphor, a filigree of caprice hardened to take the weight of social satire. The veteran science-fictioner Frederick Pohl just about makes it work. Because of a new form of energy, and the emergence of robots, the world's inhabitants become victims of a spend-spend economy. The poor are those who have to fulfill spending quotas; the rich are those freed of such obligations.

In describing a consuming society that has become a consumed society Pohl is giving a harder shove to an idea he first nudged in *Midas Plague*. In this he uses narrative segments to illustrate the decline of the human race - young marrieds from the different classes are nearly smothered by too many worldly goods; the final robotic destiny when organic humans are considered racially alien.

The topsy-turvy theme is built on a basically one-notch base, from which it might topple with one unsure touch. But the skill and integrity of its contrivance ensure that doesn't happen. The wit and characterization keep us involved. But the laughter is that of alarm.

His Master's Voice, by Stanislaw Lem (Secker and Warburg, £7.95). The great satirist expressing "a genuine conviction, no less genuine for being absurd" as dubious random tables of numbers seem to be

about to upset our concept of the Universe. Investigating scientists prove that there's as vast a space between people as between stars and there's a neat side-swipe at the "Charities of The Gods?" mentality. A rarefied treat.

Tik-Tok, by John Sladek (Gollancz, £7.95). Deprived of Asimov-circuitry our robot-hero goes on a killing spree through Middle America of an ebony-hued hilly. The frenzy of the telling becomes a bit wearing but there is an explosive comic case here which can turn a whoopee cushion into an electric chair.

Best Science Fiction Of The Year, 12, edited by Terry Carr (Gollancz, £9.95). The yearly feast with Establishment writing by such as Silverberg, Le Guin and Dick interlarded with newcomers of high potential. Terry Carr's thoughtful introduction of SF is a bonus in what would be a marvellous Christmas gift for all addicts.

Stargate, by Pauline Gedge (Penguin, £1.95). The sun-lords become mortal to save their worlds, fearing the wrath of the World-Maker. The Eden myth extended into fantasy, beautifully controlled.

Golden Witchweed, by Mary Gentle (Gollancz, £8.95). Despite a forest of daunting italics on nearly every page to emphasize new words, the new world of Orthe is a distinct and positive creation. An enthralling narrative of subtle power, as smooth-sailing as a *hulk* (double-masted ocean-going vessel, usually with lateen sails).

Tom Hutchinson

Christmas Books

In Saturday's *Times* our menu of books for Christmas includes browsing and swilling, ghost stories for the season, books about the upper crust and royals, travellers tales, children's books, fables, fables, fables, London and Paris, and picture books.



Awaking in the middle of a snore, Scrooge sits up in bed for *Times Christmas Books*. Michael Foreman's illustration for *A Christmas Carol* (Gollancz, £5.95)

The palimpsest of Londinium

London
City of the Romans
By Ralph Merrifield
(Batsford, £14.95)

The central and most obvious difficulty in studying a single Roman town, in northern Europe at least, is that if it was more than ordinarily successful (like so worth studying) it is likely to have turned into a medieval town and in due course a modern one, with the result that such of its buildings as are not completely destroyed will have been incorporated in, or buried beneath, up to 20 centuries of later development. Given reasonable luck we may have a stretch of its defensive wall, perhaps a gate, and its internal plan may be partly discernible in the modern pattern of streets.

More than this is a bonus, and in order to set such fragments into any kind of physical or historical context the archaeologist must wait the pleasure of gas and electricity boards, highways departments and municipal and private developers, sneaking in when one building is demolished and before another is built, recording what he can in the limited time available and working out its significance later when it is too late to go back and check. There will be some areas of minor importance of which he will know a great deal, and others quite central and crucial of which he will know nothing.

To say that this is like doing a jigsaw with nine-tenths of the pieces (and the picture) missing is to underestimate the problem: it is like doing about five such jigsaws one on top of another and being prevented most of the time from taking the lid off the box.

That Mr Merrifield is rather good at this game should come as no surprise: he worked for many years at the Guildhall Museum and the new Museum of London, and this is his fourth book on the subject since 1965. Its framework is essentially chronological except for a chapter on the hinterland of London and its road network, and the period covered is that from the pre-London Iron Age to the sixth century and beyond. A historical rather than a topographical approach presents problems for both author and reader, in that the material available varies greatly from one phase to another not only in amount but in ease of interpretation. In this respect the earlier chapters, in which the questions are more basic (What was the administrative status of London? When did it actually begin?), are more satisfying, even if the evidence is scarce and fragmentary.

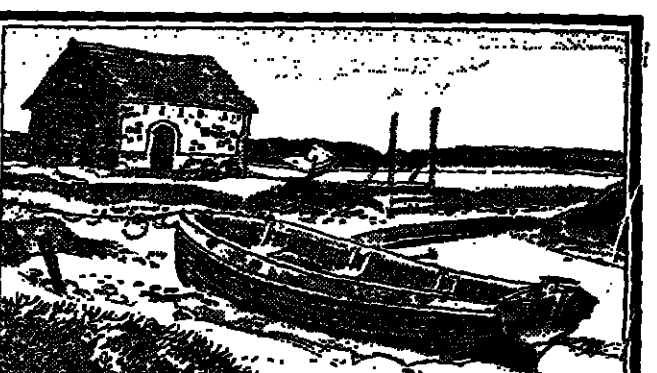
Later on, when the physical remains are more extensive, the questions become more specific and the perspective correspondingly narrower. Much of the difficulty arises from the desire to date things very precisely;

because we are dealing with a single city we wish to know what happened from one decade to another; and this is rarely possible, since even when we come across objects to which precise dates can be given the dating of the buildings in which they occur is quite another matter.

The results of this (and of the general unevenness of the material) are most clearly seen in the chapter on the third century: evidence of a decline in population and a shrinkage of the area occupied has to be set against the construction of the famous Mithraeum and a number of prosperous houses, and both have to be married to what we know of the political events of the century and their likely effects. Mr Merrifield's great quality in all this is that he neither underestimates the difficulties nor dodges the historian's responsibility to construct hypotheses.

The book is well illustrated and nicely presented, though there are a number of minor misprints. If one were in a mood to complain one would lament the lack of a map on which the main Roman features are superimposed on the modern street plan: those of us who do not live and work in the City are apt to get lost in the back streets, and the A to Z is not much help.

John Percival



COUNTRY LIFE

The Staffordshire Moorlands
Roy Christian describes the attractions of these moorlands, known only to a few lovers of wild country and secluded valleys.
Lady Hamilton's Friend
The valuable contribution to horticulture made by Charles Francis Greville, best remembered for his role in Emma Hamilton's life, is recalled by Paul Edwards.
Nature's Big Bang
Roger A. Redfern looks at the build up to, and the aftermath of, the greatest explosion of all time: the eruption of Krakatoa.
Britain's Rare-Bird Bonanza
Last year ten species of bird were recorded in this country for the first time, reports P.J. Grant.
Concerts in Country Houses
Country Life is to sponsor a programme of classical music in National Trust houses. Michael Wright gives details.
ON SALE NOW

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THE TIMES DIARY

Dynasty's top table

This may not be to Equity's liking. Filming of a new series of *Dynasty*, the searing saga of lipsticked folk, has just been completed in America. Appearing in small but meaningful roles are Henry Kissinger and Gerry and Betty Ford. All three will be playing themselves, but how these serious political people will fit into the lives of the wicked tycoons and their molls who make up *Dynasty*'s cast is not clear. Since we are a year behind America in the *Dynasty* schedule, it could be many more months before Kissinger and the Fords show up on BBC1.

Doubling up

In the revival of RSC's *Poppy* at the Adelphi, losers in a competition win two tickets to the National Theatre's ill-starred musical *Les Femmes d'Alger*, which provoked much mercurial among the audience. But the musical's composer Marvin Hamlisch was unamused and there was talk of injunctions. "He calmed down when it was explained it was just a joke," says the RSC. One of *Poppy*'s cast has, however, now suggested changing the line: the losers win four tickets to *Jean Seberg*.

Department of Employment officials are making a determined attempt to aid the jobless in South Yorkshire, an unemployment black-spot. Barnsley's job centre, devoid of the more traditional jobs, has been advertising for a trained diamond cutter to work in Los Angeles.

Torn off a strip

No one comes out of this story too well. While appearing in Berna, members of the Kirov Ballet and the accompanying Leningrad Orchestra came under suspicion by the Swiss police and were made to submit to a body search. The Moscow paper *Literaturnaya Gazeta* has subsequently accused the police of "almost unbelievable, scandalous, insulting behaviour". The police explanation is that a crime had been committed and a shopgirl thought she recognized two of the Russians near the scene. "Can you believe it?" thundered the *Gazeta*. "How would they like to be asked to strip naked on the evidence of a shopgirl?"

Deep frieze

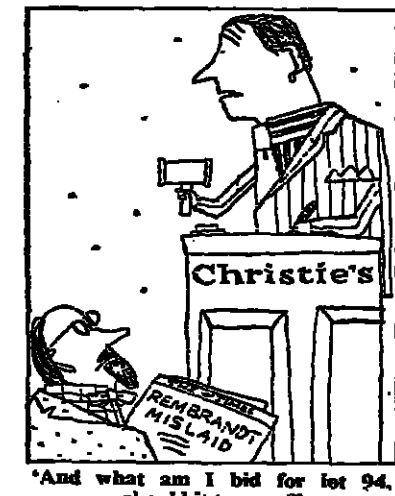
We can let the Greeks have the Elgin Marbles after all - we've got a spare set. Lord Elgin's secretary, William Hamilton, perhaps anticipating future trouble, took casts of the marbles which he kept in his King's Road house, which now belongs to Chelsea College of Art. The room in which the marbles form a frieze was recently redecorated deep blue. "It's a bit like standing inside a Wedgwood bowl", says the college secretary.

The inner sanctum of the Suffolk Constabulary HQ near Ipswich has been violated. Two armed bandits raided the one-armed bandits at the police social club on Saturday night, making off with the cash. A spokeswoman described the break-in as a bit cheeky. So far, no arrests have been made.

G(n)ome missing

East Hampshire police have issued descriptions of six little people abducted from their home in Headley Down. The constabulary are looking out for "one gnome fishing, one naked woman, two gnomes dancing and two gnomes holding hands, plus a mushroom".

BARRY FANTONI



"And what am I bid for lot 94, should it turn up?"

Back to basics

Brooke Shields, star of truly terrible movies like *Endless Love* and *The Blue Lagoon*, has enrolled at Princeton University for a course which is described by the college as "a workshop at the basic level, designed to introduce students to some of the requirements of acting." Not a moment too soon.

Our old friend, the English translator for the Hotel Bayerischerhof in Munich, is at it again. Mr David Froome, dining in the hotel's restaurant, managed to avoid "stewed angler on leak".

Pressing issue

Although the GLC drapes a banner over County Hall proclaiming the number of unemployed in London, its own bi-monthly give-away newspaper, *The Londoner*, is printed in Plymouth. "We are desperate to get a London printer," says the editor, Wes Whitehouse. The last time we put it up for tender, 13 London firms were invited to quote. Six did not reply. Six declined to quote and the one tender that was submitted was incomplete.

PHS

Tax cuts, but not just yet

As ministers join in criticism of planned reductions in public spending, the Chancellor, Nigel Lawson (right), tells Kenneth Fleet and Frances Williams that health and welfare expectations must match economic reality



What is your philosophy about the future of public spending, what strategy would you like to see? I am sure that you, as Chancellor, have views on the future path that public spending should take, not just in the aggregate.

I think there are two basic views come together. One is that we want to see public expenditure take a steadily smaller proportion of gross domestic product over a period of years. This has been happening since 1981, when it reached a peak during our government, and is projected to come down further in 1984-85.

To reduce public spending as a proportion of gross domestic product, is it essential in your view that there should be this shift from public to privately financed services?

It's not essential, but I think that it is a desirable way to achieve it. You could just say that health and the rest should remain as they are, fully in the public sector, with just so much money and no more. To a certain extent you have to do that anyway. But it's much more sensible to encourage the growth of private provision, so that the people are able to spend their money on what they most want to spend it on. And that is achieved by giving an opportunity for the private sector to meet a demand if an unsatisfied demand exists.

Have you any specific ideas on how you might encourage private provision? Would you consider tax incentives or reliefs?

There are enormous tax incentives for pensions at the present time, though not for health care and education. That is one of the things we are discussing and looking into at the moment - there is a whole range of things we have to look at as part of long-term thinking.

The implications of what you've said about public spending suggests that you see the role of the private sector as providing improvements to existing services. Does that mean that some of the more radical options that were being canvassed before the election, which would actually involve cuts in provision by the public sector in order to make room for increased provision by the private sector, are no longer being considered? I'm referring to some of the "Think Tank" proposals such as education vouchers and an insurance-financed health service.

The "Think Tank" report was its own responsibility - I don't think it's helpful particularly to hark back to that. But undoubtedly in our look at the longer term we shall have to consider a number of options. I can't tell you which. No decisions have been taken.

But we can't assume that because the Think Tank report was shelved at the time that the options it presented will not come up for consideration again. Is there no question of cutting public spending?

Anything that has been ruled out publicly has been ruled out. Realistically I think that although particular items of public expenditure

can be cut, the totality of public expenditure is most unlikely to be reduced in real terms. But if we can hold the total level of public expenditure constant in real terms over a period of years, that would give us all the headroom needed to reduce the burden of taxation over a period of years, and enable us to have the rate of growth which we all want to see.

Your Autumn Statement provoked some extreme reactions, especially over the suggestion of tax increases in the next Budget. Were you surprised at the response?

The fact that there might be a need to increase taxes in the next Budget took some people by surprise. But the plain fact is that our fiscal policy is gradually to reduce the size of the public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) as a proportion of gross domestic product. And if to do that, it is necessary to increase taxation, then everybody knows we will do that. We did it in the last Parliament and we will do it in this Parliament. Obviously it would be nicer if the problem didn't arise. But the best forecast we can make at the moment - and I emphasize the enormous margin of uncertainty involved - suggests that to get back to the Medium Term Financial Strategy figure of 3.8%, a slight increase in taxation would be needed. It would have been far more serious, I must say, if the impression had been given that we are no longer concerned about the size of the PSBR.

The prospect for reductions on taxation is still there, but at the present time it doesn't look a lively prospect for 1984. If public expenditure is held to the figures for the next three years, there will be the possibility of tax cuts further ahead.

Did you intend the statement about possible tax increases to be a shock? Was it a crude political ploy?

It wasn't a crude political ploy, but I think that it is necessary that people's expectations match the realities of the situation. In the past - I'm now talking about previous governments - one of the biggest problems we faced in this country was the huge gap between expectations and reality. And one of the things we've sought to do in the economic field ever since 1979 is to close that gap so that expectations match reality.

Bernard Levin: the way we live now

The fine art of faking good



Forger, and proud of it: Tom Keating and Constable look-alike

was obviously his view, it occurred in a play about the case, at one point in which van Meegeren is reflecting on the fact that his "Christ at Emmaus" was universally accepted as genuine until he himself proved that it was a fake. I quote van Meegeren's Question: "From memory, but it went something like this:

Yesterday, this picture was worth millions of guilders, and experts and art-lovers would come from all over the world and pay money to see it. Today, it is worth nothing, and nobody would cross the street to see it free. But the picture has not changed. What has?

I am blown if I know, and the unblown are warned that any attempt to provide the question with a snap answer will certainly come to grief. (Suppose, for instance, that van Meegeren had died before his trial; his Vermeer would presumably be accepted to this day. Moreover, he was able to get away with the original sale because there is evidence that Vermeer did paint such a picture, which had been presumed lost. So suppose that van Meegeren had died without revealing his secret, and the real Vermeer had then turned up: how would the experts have adjudicated between the two, and how would they have convinced anybody that they had made the right decision, whatever it was? Or suppose van Meegeren had been left to be opened after his death, a statement that his defence had been bogus, and that the disputed picture had been genuine after all? And suppose that that had happened, and the genuine genuine one had been found, and the experts had divided into two equal camps of supporters - which one would we have paid good money to see and be impressed by?)

The price of a picture is determined by supply and demand, within a framework of fashion, so there is no clue there; certainly some people will go to see a picture that has been sold for a record sum just because of the money it fetched, but they would also go to see, for the same reason, a giant used diamond or for that matter a very large pile of banknotes. The beauty of a picture ought not to be in the eye of the beholder, but that "ought" is a fat lot of use in the face of van Meegeren's success, and for that matter a fat consolation for those who bought (and sold) Mr Keating's Palmers. If we stood in front of van Meegeren's Vermeer and felt profoundly affected by the majesty and power of the scene, just why would we stop feeling such things if a newsboy rushed into the gallery shouting that it had just been proved a fake?

Well, let me step into the witness-box myself. I have just published a book, in one chapter of which I go rattling on for pages about Vermeer's "The Servant Pouring Milk" in the Rijksmuseum; I have gazed upon that picture countless times, for many hours in all, but I simply do not know what I would feel on my next visit if before it took place the picture was conclusively proved to be by Mr Denis Skinner, Lord Chief Justice Lane, or Miss Sarah Hogg.

If I would feel the same as I always have, then the identity of the artist is not important. In one sense, that is obviously true: there are some very great pictures which have never been attributed to any known artist. But suppose Mr Skinner, The LCI or Miss Hogg had been shown to have painted the picture, deliberately, in the style of Vermeer, which is what van Meegeren did: why would the authorship then start to matter - to matter so much, indeed, that I might no longer feel the same about it?

It is no use saying that there is a vast gulf between any masterpiece and any imitation of it, however meticulous. I have no doubt there is, but if we cannot see the difference - and successful art forgery would not exist if we could - what exactly does the difference consist of, apart from the fact that there must be one? Suppose that that four-million-dollar Manet did turn out to be a fake: the buyer could get his money back from Christie's, of course, but questions of legal liability plainly have nothing to do with artistic validity, so what would then be the standing of the oohs and ahs - quite genuine ones, I am sure - heard in the saleroom when it was held up before the bidding started?

Then again, what about a picture that has hung, neglected, in the corner of a gallery for many years, attributed to a minor follower of Raphael? All of a sudden the greatest Raphael expert in the world takes a good look at it, and declares that it is from the master's own hand: all other experts look at it and agree, and the queues begin to form. Never mind the motives of the queueers: what has caused the difference in their feelings in front of the picture, which have changed overnight from casual interest to passionate devotion? (Remember van Meegeren: "The picture has not changed. What has?")

The horrid truth seems to be that our response to art rests on a foundation much less secure than we like to think. I suppose it begins when we begin to learn about art, and all too often to learn about it in terms of hierarchies of eminence, so that Rembrandt-good is an equa-

tion fixed in our minds forever. But it is all too easy to believe, and millions do believe it, that his paintings are good because he is Rembrandt; in fact, his paintings are good because of the qualities to be found in them, and they would be no less good if they were by Smith, Jones or Aton, yet the result of the equation-learning (the equivalent of the "capes and bays" method of teaching geography when my mother was a girl) is that many visitors to an art gallery look first for the label which tells them who painted it, and then at the picture to see not what is there but what the label has told them.

If Rembrandt is good, then we are obliged to experience the appropriate response when looking at a picture he painted, and if we fail to experience it we are obliged to keep quiet. Conversely, when we are looking at a picture by not-Rembrandt, we accept that we are forbidden to feel the response appropriate to his work. Now what happens when we are looking at a Rembrandt, with the right feelings, and we are told that it is a fake? The answer, surely, is the answer to van Meegeren's question: we switch off the feeling at once, and switch on the feeling appropriate to fakes - that is, an indignation made the more intense by the realization that we have been fooled.

I have to say that I have never felt quite so tentative in offering an answer to a question in my life. But if that, or something like it, is not the answer to van Meegeren's riddle, what is? I think I had better leave it there for today, retreating in good order under the cover provided by Beachcomber's brief career as the owner of a shady art gallery where hacks turned out rubbishy daubs which were then sold to credulous millionaires as examples of the finest modern art. One evening, Foulenough got drunk and signed a hideous abstract "Tintoretto". Even the sucker who was to be bamboozled into buying it jibbed at this, and the captain, thinking first, insisted that the signature was in fact that of Tintoretto, an artist in the most avant of gardens. Thus reassured, the sucker paid up, and presumably van Meegeren, from that corner of Heaven reserved for those who have smitten the Philistines with the jawbone of an ass, chuckled quietly. My compliments to Tom Keating, and if he will only claim publicity to have painted the Manet there will be a bottle of champagne waiting for him: Levin as soon as he cares to call.

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Ronald Butt

Give local electors a higher rating

It is now a common cry on the left (with the right at best uneasily taciturn on the question) that Mrs Thatcher's government is the most centrist and interventionist for many decades. Coming from socialism - whose rigidly statist modes of thinking have usually been closer to the ideology prevailing east of the Elbe than to our own notion of democracy - the charge seems bizarre. It is not, however, entirely false on that account.

The Tories have always believed in as much local responsibility and freedom from central control as is consistent with their belief in parliamentary sovereignty. Local voluntary political and non-political work has always been dear to Tory instincts. The town hall is a great safety-valve for a party which does not believe that the man in Whitehall knows best. Yet Mrs Thatcher is both planning to obliterate substantial segments of the local authority structure, and to deprive local councils of the right to raise rates as they choose.

Of course, there is logic in both intentions. In face of the Conservatives' efforts to cut central government contributions to local finance, current spending has gone up, and the power to levy rates has been used to confound central control of the economy overall. The Conservatives have long disliked the rating system as unfair, but have been forced to conclude that there is no acceptable substitute for it. Their solution is to restrict the rate-raising power, and also to abolish the Greater London Council and the six metropolitan counties, to promote efficiency and cut costs.

The government bases its case for abolition on the argument that the councils marked for abolition have no real function and that their responsibility for fire, transport services and (outside London) police can be better undertaken by joint local boards and statutory bodies. But what has given zeal to the Tory attack on the metropolitan authorities has been dislike of the use of Labour politicians make of these bodies as rival power bases from which to launch raids into national politics.

Indeed, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, has said as much. The condemned authorities (which he has described as mostly "Marxist") are disliked because some of their leaders (most skilfully Mr Ken Livingstone of the GLC) have gone outside the traditional reserve of local government. They have challenged central government policy and used their position to campaign on such national questions as defence and the economy and to make national names for themselves.

The central government's dislike of rival political power bases is not a disreputable instinct. Historically, central government in England has always distrusted feudal rivals. Our ancient unitary state, in which the sovereign's writ runs everywhere and equally for everyone, has been founded on the authority of the crown in parliament. It has leaned heavily on local action (traditionally expressed through the shire and its officials and justices of the peace), but all their power was derived from the crown. In a sense that is also true of the contemporary local authority, which has no rights as such. Virtually everything it does is empowered by act of parliament, and what parliament has granted it can take away.

Why then should it not take away from Mr Livingstone the power that

he has operated like an over-mighty baron, challenging Westminster, than in the spirit of the crown's sheriff? There is no reason, providing that something less costly can be arranged to give better expression to local opinion on matters of importance to people that are locally administered. The Government, however, is curiously insensitive on this point, and that worries many Conservatives.

In London, Tories argue with some reason that the death of the GLC, with no elected substitute, will deprive the capital city of a "voice". Mrs Thatcher would reply (in the best tradition of English government) that there is no virtue in a body that can talk but do nothing. The strength of Parliament, after all, is that it always debates knowing that it can do anything. However, a sop it seems that the discontented Tory members of the GLC will be offered something like a statutory version of the London Boroughs Association as a voice for London, though whether with any authority to do anything more than consult is unclear.

Yet that is an inadequate response to the real problem. Of course, there is no reason to mourn the GLC and the metropolitan counties. The lack of a public outcry against their abolition is evidence of the widespread understanding that local responsibility is largely a charade that local authorities can only spend (however wastefully) on functions laid on them by Westminster, and are essentially dependant on Westminster money. (Even Mr Livingstone can spend only up to a 2p rate on his notorious support for the peculiar minority groups that enjoy his patronage). The often criticized tendency of voters to use local elections to pronounce a verdict on the Westminster government is a sign of their sophisticated understanding. They know where the real power is.

Even so, the ability of local opinion to influence locally taken decisions does matter. There is a frustrated urge for local accountability of strictly local decisions and the Government is foolish not to heed it.

It is, for instance, foolish to replace the abolished Inner London Education Authority (ILEA) by appointed borough representatives instead of by a directly elected body. An elected ILEA could be a model for other elected bodies to manage functions of welfare that are organized locally under the authority of central government. It is argued that there can be no real local autonomy without local revenue-raising. But is this necessarily so?

Why should not money for education and other functions of local importance be allocated on an equalizing basis from the centre and then spent by locally elected bodies, who might be allowed to "top up" by levying a small extra rate locally, and then account to local opinion for it? Why should not the same principle apply in various forms to fire services, transport, and ultimately (in a re-fashioned NHS) to health?

Local government as it now exists is a largely empty vessel, much misused, and the government is sensible to try to reform it. But it would be in the proper traditions of Toryism to try to rebuild local influence into local administration, in a manner that befits the changed circumstances of our time. A start could have been made with an elected ILEA instead of the body of borough nominees which it announced this week.

John Harris

Chewing on bones of contention

Clermost l'Hérault
Once upon a time in swinging Belsize Park, over the taramasalata, the tinned snails, the shashlik, the *carciofi alla romana* and the Chinese toffee apples, I could define myself as an ectomorphic non-vegetarian progressive, rationally faithful to a selection of woolly liberal western traditions. But down here, in this village between Montpellier and Béziers, in the Languedoc, Monsieur Rancoul, the mobile butcher, plays a fanfare on his hooter and parks in the square. My wife hesitates between a couple of veal escalopes and a pound of stewing beef.

"What about a nice leg of lamb this weekend, Monsieur 'Arrise? Just look at this beauty - something to regale yourself with!"

He is teasing us. Having chosen 300 days a year, wine at 30p a litre and the rest of the *douceur de vivre* of the Languedoc, we have to forego caviar, lobsters and legs of expensively educated French lamb, and he knows it. But he also knows - as a butcher - that I, as the Englishman, am conspiring to flood France with the vile limbs of nasty cheap British sheep, while my accomplices chew the tasteless fibres of aged beasts dumped by New Zealanders.

Falling into the trap, I defend the excellent product from down under, delicious even on the third day as shepherd's pie à la Worcester Sauce, while as to the succulence of English cutlets from lush dewy meadows. . . .

Anyway, what about liberty, equality and fraternity, eh? Why try to stop French housepersons choosing whichever leg they like the look, taste and price of?

He thumps the counter with a calf's foot. What am I doing? This is where I hang my hat, among this little crowd of honest helpful interested people. . . .

"Why should she ruin her country so that you can sell your great trainloads of butter to the Russians at 50 centimes the kilo? She -"

My Mrs Thatcher indeed! At Belsize Park I have to carry the can for my Mitterrand (it used to be my Roy Jenkins). Rancoul is clearly stroking a knock-down masterstroke.

My wife remembers her Dugh origins. "And why do you keep on chucking your potato salts in the Rhine, and ruining my vegetable gardens?"

He looks capable of defending his right to chuck anything in any of his rivers whenever the spirit moves him. But he won't be side-tracked: "Well, you burnt Joan of Arc, didn't you?"

Should I try to explain to him that Joan, despite her regrettable touch of anglophobia, is almost a naturalized British heroine? Better not. But I firmly point out that the Burgundians, who sold Joan, were not a British tribe, and that Cauchon, who condemned her, was the Bishop of Beauvais, not of Birmingham.

He grins with delight. Common sense has broken through. Perhaps he has more of it than I have. "All right, you win. You didn't burn her. But you must admit I didn't either."

We agree that we not only didn't burn Joan, but that if we had been there at the time we would have deplored the whole thing. We are against burning young ladies. We are on the same side after all.

This *entente cordiale* took place some days before I read an interesting review of two recent French books in *The Economist*. It seems that Joan was really the daughter of a VIP, was quietly released after her trial, got married and lived fairly happily ever after. The girl whom the Inquisition burnt was someone of no importance.

I'm glad I didn't know about this. It would have complicated the leg-of-lamb discussion. And when you come to think about it, it would have been a red herring.



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THE 2001 DEBATE

The cause of open government could have no more prized adherent than Mr Fowler, whose conversion was announced in Tuesday's stimulating speech. At last, fourteen months after the Think Tank's welfare proposals were leaked, nine months after the press rumbled the Family Policy Group, one member of the government has subscribed to the involvement of the public in the debate about the future of social policy that has been going on in the holes and corners of Whitehall for some time.

Open government does not mean the satisfaction of casual curiosity about the workings of secret committees. It does require ministers to share with the public those hard but hidden facts of fiscal life, those internal tax and benefit equations which will shape the future of spending and services. The next convert must surely be Mr Lawson. In the conversation with *The Times* published this morning he teeters on the edge of acknowledging with Mr Fowler that there must be information, discussion about health costs, not just this year or next but in the longer run of decades. And after debate comes a plan, a proper plan for social spending till the end of the century. "Plan" is a loaded word in this government's lexicon, but without one how are public expectations to be shaped, diminished? Before either debate or plan the Prime Minister must throw off her preoccupation with the short term, and look beyond what seems to be her own tight social policy horizon, the date two years hence when she herself reaches pensionable age.

Such a debate will not make, as Mr Fowler rightly observed, for a quiet life. There is moreover no guarantee that the public, the parties or the producers of social services will prove mature enough to cast forward the arithmetic of pensions and doctors' bills to thirty even fifty years ahead. But the least that ministers and officials can do, and soon, is get the debate started on the basis of facts. This is no exercise in future fantasy. Those due to retire in the third decade of the next century will enjoy (on present policy) state pensions costing up to one third of earnings to finance; contribution rates will have to shoot up to meet the cost. The time for discussion is now. The pensioners of 2030 are at this moment beginning their careers; a process of expectation-building has started: the reality of the costs of the Crossman-Castle earnings-related pension scheme must be exposed now.

In his speech Mr Fowler gave a lead, reminding the doom-sayers that "ageing Britain" is not a demographic fact. After peaking in the middle of this decade the total number of pensioners (a growing proportion of whom will come to rely on private occupational schemes for their livelihood after retirement) will tail off. Such projections are of course fallible. Medical advance, changes in behaviour (less smoking for example) will affect mortality. Without doubt there will be mounting costs for the health service from the increased number of the very old; but there will be scope for savings else-

where in the population structure. The projections do not all point in one direction; talk of an emergency in health costs is wild. The expensive might of the Government Information Service could well be mobilized in making intelligible the numbers and the nuances.

Yet a social policy debate that concerns itself with numbers and tax bills alone is going to be partial. Social policy is about family obligation, marriage, private provision as well as the public purse. Ellipsis between the burden of taxes and the "burden" of the elderly - the Prime Minister was guilty of loose talk in July - diminishes that vital sense of inter-generational continuity which holds society together. Any social policy debate must have a wide moral and a legal dimension: which is yet another reason that discussions in the Family Policy Group should never have been narrowly clandestine. Ministers may blanch at making speeches about family duty and divorce but such issues must be discussed. Divorce rates are linked to the cost of care. By the 1990s the disruption in children's obligations towards their parents caused by divorce will be a growing element in the dependence of the elderly on non-family providers of care. There have been occasions in the past when the natural reluctance of Conservatives to investigate society's working, to reduce its opacity, was fitting; now is not the time for squeamishness. Mr Fowler's prescription for maximizing openness about the problems and options of social policy is the right one.

TIME FOR A RECOUNT IN GENEVA

It has long been assumed that Soviet negotiators would leave the conference room in Geneva as soon as new missiles were deployed in West Germany. They had to make some kind of gesture, and they also need time to re-think their position. Hitherto their sole aim has been to prevent Western deployments. Every one of their proposals has required that the West refrain from deploying any cruise or Pershing II missiles. (The shadowy "walk in the woods" formula would have stopped only the Pershings, but it was not a formal proposal.) Now that deployments have begun they must decide whether to stick to their original aim or seek a balance that would permit some Western weapons to remain.

It is possible, of course, that they have lost all interest in agreement now that they have failed to get what they wanted. Although the West's zero-zero offer is still available they could persuade themselves that they are better off without an agreement. They already have a big advantage in theatre nuclear forces. They could build on this advantage by continuing to deploy SS-20s and other weapons without restraint while the West has limited itself to 572 new weapons and would find it politically difficult to increase the number.

The Soviets also have another

reason for not hurrying towards an agreement, which is that they do not want to help Mr Reagan to get re-elected. This will not necessarily prevent them showing interest again after a decent pause, especially if they decide that he is going to get re-elected anyway, but if for whatever reason, they decide to resume negotiation they are unlikely to return to the table they have just abandoned. More probably they will seek to bring European theatre weapons into the strategic arms reduction talks (START) which have been running parallel in Geneva. This would greatly complicate the negotiations but would also make sense, since the distinction between theatre and strategic weapons is increasingly meaningless. It would also have the advantage of releasing the West from making the somewhat artificial connection between Soviet SS-20s on the one hand and American Pershings and cruise missiles on the other. Arms control might then be reassessed on a more rational basis by both sides, assuming they both genuinely want an agreement.

Meanwhile there will be argument about whose fault it was that the talks failed. Since the Soviet Union was not really interested in balanced arms control but simply in stopping the deployment of particular weapons the main blame lies

with them. The Soviets could have had balance at almost any level between SS-20s and the new Western weapons which would have left them with an overall advantage. Perhaps the West could have gained a substantial reduction of SS-20s in return for abandoning deployment, but it is not clear whether there was a genuine Soviet offer hidden in the final flurry of conflicting signals from Moscow. Even if there was it would have left the Soviet Union with more SS-20s than in 1979, when the Nato decision was made, while defeating the main aim of the decision, which was to couple the American nuclear deterrent more effectively into the defence of Europe.

So it is difficult to argue that an opportunity was lost. What needs to be emphasised more strongly to a doubting public is that when Nato decided on the new weapons in 1979 it also decided to withdraw 1,000 nuclear warheads. Last month it decided to remove a further 2,000 over five years. Assuming that 572 new weapons are deployed there will be a net reduction of 1,428, or about 2,500 since 1979, which will bring the total down to its lowest in 20 years. So the picture of a relentless and provocative Western build-up is false. It is on the other side that the numbers are growing.

NO MESSENGER MARTYRS

On the face of it, the TUC general council gave its blessing yesterday to the National Graphical Association in its defiance of the Employment Acts. The High Court has already imposed a fine on the union for secondary picketing in its long recognition dispute with Messenger Newspapers Group, and the union has refused to pay. The general council has decided to "accept as valid" the union's request for assistance under the resolution passed by last year's special conference at Wembley, at the height of the campaign against the new laws.

Naturally the union is proclaiming that the movement's leaders have endorsed their action, and the pickets may be encouraged to persist in their efforts. Members of the general council itself may well feel that they did the very minimum that they could get away with. They issued a strong hint of disapproval of the rough tactics reportedly used by the pickets. The statement accepts the union's request as valid, but it does not go on, as the general council is empowered to do at its discretion by the Wembley formula, to call for financial and industrial support from the movement as a whole. It would be necessary to re-convene the general council and debate the matter again before any more substantial commitments could be entered into.

After Labour's election defeat,

a tentative resumption of contacts with the Government and an annual conference reader than any in recent years to face unpleasant truths, the TUC is not eager to be drawn back into the sterile of confrontation. Workers are still too concerned about the security of their own jobs to relish a pitched battle, least of all over legislation which has many supporters among the rank and file and does much to protect the individual trade unionist from pressures imposed by his own union. The TUC will not easily be able to negotiate a compromise over political contributions that it is eager to conclude if it has at the same time to man the barricades over Messenger.

In reality, the general council could have done less, and should have done. It took care last year not to allow itself to be deprived of discretion in judging how and when it should come to a union's aid. The NGA is well able to pay the fine imposed, and much more, without suffering anything like the "severe financial problems" the Wembley conference spoke of. This is a basically law-abiding movement; it must take pains to be seen to be so on the picket line. In addition, the matters remaining in dispute are now so narrow that it would be preposterous to hitch a national campaign on to them.

Unlike the Grunwick case, where the employer was frankly

hostile to trade union representation in his factory, the Messenger dispute involves an employer who will be less easily elevated into the labour movement demonology. At the weekend the union's main demand for a closed shop throughout the Messenger group was conceded. Negotiations now turn on the employer's refusal to reinstate six dismissed strikers.

Six dismissed strikers make no very resonant rallying-call. The real issue now is whether the union can make the new laws appear unenforceable or irrelevant in practice. How the law should be enforced is for the High Court to decide, and the issue of contempt is sub judice. But there are sanctions available to it, including attachment of the union's considerable funds, which can be imposed without putting trade unionists in prison and making martyrs of them. It would be short-sighted of an outsider to pay the fine on the union's behalf in the hope of averting disruption to his own business: such expedients only store up more trouble for later. The issue is now between the court and the union. As for the general council, it has made its gesture, and the course of true leadership will be for it to stand aside, lest it discredit the movement's claims to respect the law, by throwing its influence behind a union warring a minor dispute into a national political confrontation.

Woolworth case missgivings

From Lady Phillips

Sir, The misplaced approval with which the handling by a crown court of a recent case involving a charge of theft from a Woolworth store was greeted by the less discerning sections of the press should not be allowed to conceal the fact that the Recorder who dealt with the case did so in an unjudicial and unjust way, with the result that Woolworth's suffered a manifest injustice.

To judge by the report of the case in *The Times* for November 18 the Recorder indulged in florid rhetoric which seems to me quite out of place when judicial impartiality, logical reasoning and a sense of natural justice are called for.

Thus the Recorder said that Woolworth's decision to prosecute a section of 77 for shoplifting was an "affront to British justice". Surely, the point is that, provided of course the evidence of the woman's actions which Woolworth's had in their possession disclosed a prima facie case of theft, they had a legal right to prosecute, irrespective of her marital status, or her age, or the fact that in some quarters shopkeepers like Woolworth's are considered fair game for thieves.

The Recorder appears to have confused the considerations relevant to the question whether there was a prima facie case against the accused with those considerations relevant to the question what order the court should make if the accused were ultimately found guilty.

I consider the mischief wrought by the Recorder in this misjudged case consists in the encouragement it gives to the notion I have already mentioned, that stores like Woolworth's do not deserve the protection of the law where theft of their goods is alleged by them to have occurred.

Yours sincerely,
PHILLIPS,
Director and Secretary,
Association for the Prevention of Theft in Shops
303/304 Grand Buildings,
Tottenham Court Road, WC2,
November 21.

Settle-Carlisle line

From Mr M. J. Southgate

Sir, The article concerning the Settle-Carlisle line (November 17) does call for a reply in the face of British Rail being accused of "fiddling" figures.

The figures quoted by Mr Whitehouse might prove more leaky than leaked. They are in fact the wrong ones to study when considering the criteria for closure of the line. They are figures produced for management information only and are not relevant, nor have they been used, to reach any decision about this line.

I want it to be absolutely clear that the criteria for British Rail closure planning has been based on the cost of maintenance and staffing of the route between Settle Junction and Carlisle.

We are confident that the service can be adequately re-routed to serve additional markets and that we can do this in a more economical fashion.

Yours faithfully,
M. J. SOUTHGATE,
General Manager,
London Midland Region,
British Railways,
Euston House, NW1.

The Koh-i-Noor

From Mrs N. Byrne

Sir, I phoned today to re your article of Tuesday, November 8, page 5, of *The Times*. "India turns acquisitive eyes on the Koh-i-Noor". I would like to point out that it was John Lawrence (my great grandfather) who was given the Koh-i-Noor to deliver to Queen Victoria, but he left it in his coat pocket, and it went to the wash. When he discovered this he asked his dhoti, "Did you find a piece of glass in my pocket?" and at once it disappeared.

This has been a story that I have grown up with and is correct and shows the complete simplicity of John Lawrence, the only Viceroy who was not made a marquess owing to his real love of the simple life. I would be grateful for this to be put right as I am proud to be the great-granddaughter of a humble and God-fearing man, who loved India.

Yours faithfully,
NONA BYRNE,
Roughmear Rise,
East Lavant,
Chichester, West Sussex.

Farm tenancies

From the Director of the University of Oxford Institute of Agricultural Economics

Sir, The recent burst of correspondence in your columns relating to the decline of the traditional British landlord-tenant system, though it has raised many interesting issues, has failed to make the essential point.

There can be no doubt about the magnitude of the problem. In a few years some fourteen years two million acres of land in England and Wales have moved from the tenant to the owner-occupied sector. My prediction is that the new legislation will have minimal effect in stemming the tide since the CLP/NPU package on which the 1983 Agricultural Holdings Bill is based is a compromise which contains two opposing provisions.

One effect of the Bill, if it is passed, will be to remove it disincentive for landowners with a vacant farm on hand to offer it to a new tenant. To do so at present means that the landowner, under the 1976 Act, cedes his right to re-possession (save in somewhat restricted circumstances) through three generations of tenants on which the 1983 Act was originally motivated by an intent to maintain tenancy. In a letter in your columns of October 8, 1981, I

Policy on prison release and parole

From the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Home Office

Sir, Dr Candy's resignation from the Parole Board is a matter of regret to the Home Secretary and myself. His letter to you (November 22) setting out the reasons for his action, however, seriously misrepresents the Home Secretary's policy in relation to the release of life sentence prisoners and the granting of parole.

The Home Secretary's announcement of the minimum period that he would normally expect certain categories of life sentence prisoners to serve does not mean a departure from the fundamental principles governing the consideration of individual cases. Nor does it usurp the role of Parliament.

The statutory position is clear. Before releasing a life-sentence prisoner the Home Secretary receives and will continue to receive advice, in each individual case, from the Parole Board on the risk to the public of releasing the prisoner and from the judiciary on the appropriate length of sentence to be served. But final decisions on the release of life-sentence prisoners rest entirely with the Home Secretary; and he is directly accountable to Parliament for the exercise of that statutory executive discretion. What the Home Secretary has done is to enunciate openly the policy that he will be following in considering each case that comes before him.

Dr Candy's account of how the Home Secretary's proposal in relation to restricting parole will operate is similarly misleading. All eligible prisoners will continue to be reviewed for parole on the merits of their individual cases. But parole is a privilege, not a right.

Successive Home Secretaries have exercised their statutory discretion

on granting parole in ways which have seemed to them to accord best with the current requirements of the public interest and with the thrust of their general criminal justice policy. Their policies have been reflected in criteria followed by the Parole Board in making recommendations on individual cases and have been made public. The gravity of the offence is one of the factors that has always been included in these criteria.

It is thus entirely appropriate that this Home Secretary should set out his policy clearly for the benefit both of the Parole Board and of the public. The Home Secretary has had a meeting with the General Purposes Committee of the Parole Board in which there was a clear consensus of the way in which his policy should be implemented and the board's role maintained. He will make a detailed statement on this shortly.

Perhaps the most curious criticism in Dr Candy's letter is that the changes in policy announced by the Home Secretary have brought sentencing into the political arena. The Home Secretary has deliberately sought to avoid action which would interfere with the independent exercise by the courts of their sentencing functions. But he is publicly accountable for the exercise of his own statutory responsibilities.

He intends to carry out those responsibilities on the basis of a clearly stated policy which he believes will increase public confidence in the way in which the criminal justice system deals with the most serious and violent offenders sentenced by the courts.

Yours faithfully,
ELTON,
Home Office,
Queen Anne's Gate, SW1,
November 23.

Greeks and Cyprus

From Sir David Hunt

Sir, In his article in today's *Times* (November 22) Roger Scruton has chosen to present the Turkish case on Cyprus in its crudest form; but he should have thought twice before embellishing it with a phrase much used before 1959 by Colonial Service officials, who should have known better, that Cyprus "has never been a Greek possession".

What meaning would he attach to this? That Cyprus had never been ruled from Athens since the Greek nation-state came into existence after 1821? By that criterion Chios "had never been a Greek possession" before 1912 nor Corfu before 1864. Does he consider that those islands are not Greek?

Greek language and culture have been dominant in Cyprus from the end of the second millennium BC, about the same time as in Chios and earlier than in Corfu. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
DAVID HUNT,
The Athenaeum,
Pall Mall, SW1.

Turkish invasion

From Mr James Callaghan, MP for Cardiff South and Penarth (Labour)

Sir, In your November 16 edition of *The Times* I was reported as saying in the House of Commons on November 15 with regard to Cyprus: "The situation is a little different now from 1974, when the Turkish Government asked us to help them invade the island in order to support a gangster called Nikos Sampson who had taken over control of the island..."

That must have been a slip of the tongue on my part. They asked us to "overthrow" him, and not "support" him. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
JIM CALLAGHAN,
House of Commons.

Airline competition

From Mr N. Ashton Hill

Sir, May I be permitted through your columns to draw attention to an aspect which seems to have been less noticed than the debt for equipment.

British Airways has inherited a network of scheduled international services which were derived from the once famous schedules of corporation routes exclusively reserved to the nationalised corporations by the 1952 terms of reference. The removal of their monopoly has never altered the situation, which gave the corporation a long head start in its build up

Human rights

From Mrs Patricia Coveney

Sir, Anthony Lester's article, "Why deny us these rights?" (November 16), raises the interesting question as to why the British Government has not signed the Optional Protocol to the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights.

This country ratified the International Convention on May 20, 1976, but we are not among the countries (including Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden) which are party to the Optional Protocol. The Optional Protocol enables individuals of states parties to submit written communications to the United Nations Human Rights Committee for consideration.

The fact that there is available a means of redress for individuals under the European Convention on Human Rights is beside the point. By signing the Optional Protocol we could encourage other nations to follow suit such as the USSR, which are not party to the European Convention, and are not likely to be.

It is noteworthy that Denmark, Italy, and the Netherlands, among the EEC countries, are parties to the Optional Protocol and are not content with the European Convention on Human Rights.

The only way we can enable nationals of the USSR to submit written communications concerning the violation of human rights to the United Nations Human Rights Committee (on which a UK and a USSR judge sit) is by signing the Optional Protocol. If we do not sign it how can we expect the USSR to do so?

Yours faithfully,
PATRICIA COVENEY,
40 Westfield Close,
Bath,
Avon,
November 17.

of a very valuable route network of scheduled services. Is not this usually called goodwill? And is not the value of such intangible but valuable assets the value of the equipment? With a viable route network, it is not difficult to arrange finance for equipment. But without it, it would be impossible.

How is this going to be balanced so as to avoid endangering the independent operators, and the overall interests of users of air transport?

Yours faithfully,
N. ASHTON HILL, Chairman,
Federation of Air Transport User Representatives in the European Community,
129 Kingsway, WC2.

instruction is effectively contained in a sub-clause which speaks of account being taken of the rent at which "a competent tenant... could reasonably be expected to profit from farming the holding".

The danger in this is that effective suspension of market forces may reproduce the lagged effect on rents which caused so many problems between 1948 and 1958; and continued unwillingness of landowners to offer new tenancies when they are able to do so.

There appears, in the face of the evidence which we have, to be no sound reason for replacing the 1958 formula with a new one of uncertain impact which might effectively undermine the intent of the proposed legislation. It therefore appears important that the whole situation be re-appraised with an effort being made to produce a compromise re-formulation which would avoid both a restrictive rent policy and blockage associated with the 1976 succession provisions.

Unless this can be done the continued decline of a valuable institutional arrangement will not be arrested. Yours faithfully,
G. H. PETERS, Director,
University of Oxford,
Institute of Agricultural Economics,
Dartington House,
Little Clarendon Street, Oxford,
November 9.

Individuality of Christian faith

From the General Secretary of The United Reformed Church

Sir, Your leading article of November 21 represents a further attempt to portray Christian faith as a private matter between the individual and God. Such a description of Christianity is comforting to many people in this country, especially to those who find the status quo acceptable. It is a style of religion which conforms to a secularised nation and culture and refuses to disturb the modern norms of society.

But this individualist, introspective emphasis has never been the whole of Christianity. If we seek a summary of what Jesus Christ was about, I would say it was to bring the Kingdom or reign of God, in all its righteousness, forgiveness and self-sacrificing love.

That kingdom has never been recognised solely in the interior life of the human spirit, but always in the total life of women and men in their struggle to live at peace, to face with dignity the terrors of death and to share in the community life of the Church.

It is true that we may easily make mistakes as we seek to interpret the reign of God for the life of our global village. We may jump too readily on bandwagons (whether they drive on the left or right) or rely too much on the latest expert. But to refuse the attempt, to offer no Christian critique, to make no Christian impact on national policies is to surrender. Surrender to what? To the gods of efficiency, profit and national power.

That is not what you, Sir, have in mind, and is not why Christ trod the way to the Cross. The personal and public witness will always need each other.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD THOROGOOD,
General Secretary,
The United Reformed Church,
86 Tavistock Place, WC1,
November 22.

From Mr Richard Lethbridge

Sir, My wife and I, one Anglican and one Roman Catholic, thought today's leading article, "The way of the Cross", was absolutely outstanding and thank you for it. It expressed much of what we both think about developments in the Western Church over the last 20 years.

It is very encouraging that a British newspaper can still produce leading articles of such quality and depth - and not a single misprint. Yours gratefully,
RICHARD LETHBRIDGE,
Fawler Manor,
Near Charlbury,
Oxfordshire,
November 21.

From Professor H. MacL. Currie

Sir, With reference to your shrewd analysis of Dr. Hargrove's endorsement of the "New Evangelicalism" (November 21), it is interesting to note that Simone Weil found the traditional teaching on the Church as the Body of Christ a real disincentive to entry. She compares it with the Marxist idea of class solidarity and reflecting on the concept of integration she writes: "Our true dignity is not to be parts of a body... It consists in the fact that in the state of perfection which is the vocation of each one of us, we no longer live in ourselves, but Christ lives in us; so that through our perfection Christ becomes a part of each one of us, as he is completely in each host. The hosts are not a part of his body."

(The Simone Weil Reader, ed by G. A. Panichas (1977), p24). Yours truly,
H. MACL. CURRIE,
Department of Humanities,
Teeside Polytechnic,
Middlesbrough,
Cleveland,
November 22.

Enterprise in milk

From Dr R. W. D. Turner

Sir, Most people would miss the friendly milkman, but if the flavour of UHT is as unpleasant as opponents of keeping EEC law maintain, there will be no problem. Advantages for many are low price and convenience.

Low fat UHT is far more palatable, much healthier and likely to be acceptable to many if not most people. Young children anyway adapt to what is around. Enterprise by the UK dairy industry in producing a wide range of low fat UHT milks and milk products is surely indicated. The key questions are why not be enterprising? Why not permit freedom of choice? - and thereby be lawful. RICHARD TURNER,
66 Buccleuch Street,
Edinburgh.

Winged chariot

From Mr David Whiffen

Sir, Miss Kerry ten Kate (November 16) is wrong about the smallest measurable interval of time. This is undoubtedly that between the moment you replace a telephone receiver on its hook and the moment you realise you had something else to say. Yours sincerely,
DAVID WHIFFEN,
9 Elliot Place,
Blackheath, SE3,
November 16.

From Mr J. A. Walsh

Sir, I used to think the shortest measurable interval of time was the space between the traffic lights in front turning green and the sports car turning round its horn.

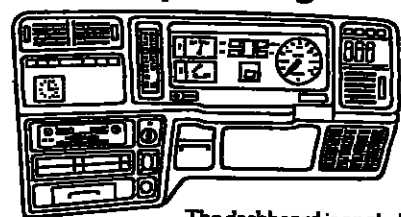
Lately, however, I have concluded that the speed with which Brussels taxi meters advance 5 francs a click is a clear winner. Yours faithfully,
J. A. WALSH,
30 Otways Lane,
Ashted,
Surrey,
November 17.



Ford Sierra. A beautiful way to travel.

The Sierra is a quiet, long-legged beauty with a rare talent for motorway cruising.

Thanks to that sleek shape and high fifth gear, the 2.0 litre and 2.3 V6 manual versions can cruise all day at 70 mph using only half their maximum revs.



The dashboard is angled around you so that all the instruments face you and the switches fall naturally to hand.

Consequently, with less strain on the engine, it follows that there will be less strain on you, the driver. In fact the spacious, efficiently equipped Sierra cockpit becomes a haven of peace and comfort, far removed from the harsh, noisy motorway world outside.

The result is that you arrive at journey's end in much better shape than you might expect.

But then you must remember that the Sierra was a much better shape to begin with.

Car illustrated is a GL with optional black paint, sunroof and rear seat-belts.

**Man and machine
in perfect harmony.**



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MARKET REPORT by Michael Clark

L & M fears of a predator

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began, Nov 14. Dealings end, Nov 25. Contango Day, Nov 28. Settlement Day, Dec 5.

BRITISH FUNDS

1983/84	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	%	Yld	P/E
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

1983/84	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	%	Yld	P/E
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

1983/84	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	%	Yld	P/E
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

1983/84	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	%	Yld	P/E
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00

BREWERS AND DISTILLERS

1983/84	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	%	Yld	P/E
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

1983/84	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	%	Yld	P/E
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00

A-B

1983/84	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	%	Yld	P/E
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00

STERLING: SPOT AND FORWARD

1983/84	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	%	Yld	P/E
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00

MONEY MARKET

1983/84	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	%	Yld	P/E
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00

OTHER MARKETS

1983/84	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	%	Yld	P/E
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

1983/84	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	%	Yld	P/E
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00

DOLLAR DEPOSITS

1983/84	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	%	Yld	P/E
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00

GOLD

1983/84	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	%	Yld	P/E
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00

EURO-DEPOSITS

1983/84	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	%	Yld	P/E
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1983/84	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	%	Yld	P/E
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1983/84	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	%	Yld	P/E
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00

PROPERTY

1983/84	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	%	Yld	P/E
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00

PLANTATIONS

1983/84	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	%	Yld	P/E
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00

MISCELLANEOUS

1983/84	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	%	Yld	P/E
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00

UNLISTED SECURITIES

1983/84	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	%	Yld	P/E
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1983/84	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	%	Yld	P/E
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1983/84	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	%	Yld	P/E
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00

PROPERTY

1983/84	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	%	Yld	P/E
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00
100000	100.00	99.00	100000	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.00	10.00

THE TIMES
FINANCE AND INDUSTRY
Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Casting doubts on all the soothsayers

All economic forecasting, according to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, is extremely suspect and unreliable. This was his initial response to my suggestion that soothsayers outside Whitehall were noticeably more pessimistic about the future growth and the rate of inflation than the Treasury in last week's Autumn Statement.

The point is well made today: the National Institute sees growth faltering and inflation rising, whereas the Treasury predicted that the present three per cent growth rate would be maintained and that inflation, by the end of next year, would be down to 4½ per cent.

Not unnaturally, while maintaining his own scepticism, Mr Lawson would advise anyone wishing to believe in economic forecasts to believe the Treasury's, "because the Treasury since 1979 has a better track record."

So much for the broad canvas. Of all last week's forecasts, the one that caused most eyebrows to rise was the seemingly cautious figure of an extra net £400m (to £1,900m) from the sale of state assets to private investors.

The Chancellor admitted to being "a little bit cautious". Although not the Treasury's figure, the market has been thinking in terms of £4,000m from the sale alone of 51 per cent of British Telecom.

It is now absolutely clear that this huge marketing operation will be well spread over time: the sales proceeds pencilled in the 1984-85 forecasts are merely the first part payment.

The final reckoning will obviously depend on the state of the market at the time of the sale and also on the degree of American buying interest which the Treasury and its City marketeers can drum up.

Mr Lawson is pretty sanguine about the future level of pay settlements. The level in the private sector has been falling steadily without an incomes policy, but under pressure, most would argue, from recession, falling output and rising unemployment.

On the evidence so far, he does not consider economic recovery will bring intolerable pay settlements. The message to managements is still: "If they get into difficulties by paying excessive wages we are not going to pump money into the economy simply to get them off the hook."

In the conventional sense, Mr Lawson does not have a burning ambition to be a tax-reforming Chancellor.

"There's a close connexion," he observed, "between tax reform and tax simplification on the one hand and tax reduction on the other. In practical and political terms, it is very difficult to

simplify the taxation system - which could do with simplification - and indeed to introduce any other kind of reform, unless at the same time you're lowering the burden of taxation. I don't however, seek to redraw the whole tax system in this country."

That said, he does have priorities if and when he is in a position to cut taxes. Industry, he feels, "hasn't done too badly lately". Nevertheless, the taxation of industry "is something I would have to take into account when the time comes to weigh up the relative priorities."

His last words in the interview were on the international debt situation. In his view: "The main problem is the excessively high level of dollar interest rates", which went back directly to the size of the American budget deficit. "That is about the biggest cloud on the horizon economically."

It meant that interest rates "will be higher than they would otherwise be, and that is a very serious matter for the debtor countries".

Lawson interview, page 12

Aspinall plays his Anglo hand

Aspinall Holdings has lost no time in doing deals way beyond its Mayfair gaming tables. Just a week after gaining a quotation on the Unlisted Securities Market, it revealed yesterday that it had spent £4.25m buying a 10 per cent stake in Anglo Scottish Investment Trust.

The buying earlier stoutly denied, started the day Aspinall's own shares were first quoted. It has all the hallmarks of Sir James Goldsmith who, like Mr John Aspinall, has a 40 per cent stake in Aspinall Holdings. In particular, it shows his predilection for making money out of a messy situation.

Anglo Scottish is already at the centre of a row. It used to be managed by Gartmore Management. But they were dismissed after Exco International took control of Gartmore in August. Instead Mr Eric Crawford and Mr Sam Stevenson, joint managing directors of Gartmore resigned, set up CS Investments and won the management contract, due to start today. Institutional shareholders, are forcing a vote on the change because Mr Crawford is an Anglo director.

Mr Richard Langdon, Aspinall chairman, maintains his company's holding is an investment rather than a platform for some kind of takeover.

Mr Crawford is not so sure. "It is unlikely it is just there as a holding, they probably have other things on their mind. It's not like them to just take a stake and sit tight."

An unanswered question of trust

Unit trust groups are having a record year. Sales hit £2,000m for the 10 months to the end of October, compared with the previous record of £1,157 for the whole of 1982.

Do these figures really reflect massive public confidence in unit trusts as an investment? Many fund managers, perhaps surprisingly, think "not necessarily so".

The 1980 Finance Act gave unit trusts a huge tax advantage over other investment vehicles, exempting them from Capital Gains Tax.

Insurance companies which run unitized funds (very similar to unit trusts, but linked with life policies) were slow to react. Since 1980, there has been a dribble

of money across from life funds into unit trusts as insurers gradually ran down their unitized funds in favour of unit trusts.

The question is, how much of this year's sales is attributable to genuine buying from the public, and how much is a switch by unitized insurance funds?

Fund managers, anxious to see if they are maintaining their share of new investment by private investors, are pressing the Unit Trust Association to ask members to provide a breakdown of sales, separating institutional business from private investment.

Most fund managers are ready and willing to do this, but two major groups, both merchant banks, refuse to comply. That is a pity.

Institute forecast on growth contradicts Treasury

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

A slowdown in economic growth, rising unemployment and higher inflation are forecast for next year, by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, marking a stark contrast with the optimism of the Treasury and some other private forecasters.

The institute's latest economic review expects national output next year to average about 2 per cent more than this year, similar to the rise between 1982 and 1983. But, it says, looking at average levels "obscures the view taken of prospects from now on."

Output is forecast to increase at an annual rate of little more than 1 per cent over the next two years, too slow to stop unemployment from climbing further.

In 1985, if policy remains unchanged, unemployment will be 400,000 higher than today at 3.3 million.

The Treasury's latest forecasts, published last week, predict growth of 3 per cent this year and next, with unemployment stabilizing below 3 million, and inflation dropping to 4.5 per cent by the end of next year.

The main difference between the institute and the Treasury lies in their assessment of what is likely to happen to consumer spending. The institute predicts growth of only 0.3 per cent next year as inflation, rising to nearly 7 per cent by the end of 1984, catches up with pay increases and the impact of easier credit terms fades.

The Treasury is assuming a 2.5 per cent rise in consumer spending, after 3.5 per cent this year, on the expectation that inflation will ease further and consumers will continue to borrow heavily.

On investment, exports and

stocks there is little difference of opinion between the two.

The institute has also looked five years ahead to 1988, using simulations based on different sets of assumptions. On present policies, it says, the economy might grow by about 1.5 per cent a year, with unemployment rising to 3.5 million and inflation sticking at between 7 per cent and 7.5 per cent.

The simulations suggest output and unemployment could be boosted by more expansionary fiscal policies, including tax cuts and higher public spending, with relatively little cost in higher inflation.

But the institute gives a warning that "With North Sea production now at or near its peak, the need to maintain a tolerable balance of payments could re-emerge as an obstacle to faster growth in the next few years."

● The pace of job losses in manufacturing industry slowed further in the third quarter this year, while productivity picked up sharply, according to the November issue of the Department of Employment Gazette.

Manufacturing employment fell by 29,000 between July and September, compared with 58,000 in the previous three months and 90,000 in the last quarter of 1982.

The number of people with jobs in the economy as a whole has begun to rise for the first time since late 1979, according to employment department statistics. An increase in employment in the service industries, coupled with an assumed increase of 25,000 in the self-employed, produced a rise of 18,000 in the employed labour force in the second quarter.

SE review may halve council membership

By Wayne Lintott

The 46-member governing Council of the Stock Exchange may be cut by more than half under a review now being made by its chairman, Sir Nicholas Goodison. A membership of about 20 is favoured within the Exchange.

The council is expected to announce a review before Christmas the appointment of at least five lay members to its numbers, now all drawn from member firms. It will also make lay members a majority on the disciplinary appeals committee. A new appeal body will also be formed to cover membership.

The appointments are a central part of the agreement reached by the Stock Exchange with the Government to avoid an appearance before the Restrictive Trade Practices Court. The agreement was ratified by Parliament on Tuesday.

The Government says it wants to see the changes pushed through as quickly as possible, but no names have been mentioned as definite appointees. The council, working with the Bank of England and Department of Trade and Industry, is still seeking suitable candidates prepared to serve.

The review of the council's operating procedure and its control over subordinate committees, on which lay members of the council may also serve, has arisen to make decision making efficient. It is felt in the Stock Exchange that a council consisting of more than 50 members may be too cumbersome.

The eventual number of lay members will be determined by the final decision on size.

The council is expected to announce tomorrow the long awaited news that member firms may appoint outside non-executive directors to their partnerships or boards to represent the interest of outside shareholders. The senior partners at Smith Brothers, the jobbers, have been lobbying particularly keenly for this.

Also waiting in the wings to appoint outsiders are the four firms in which leading financial institutions have taken the maximum permitted stake, 29.9 per cent.

Beckett steps up tax policy attack

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

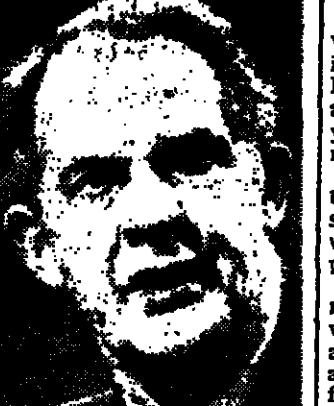
Sir Terence Beckett, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, has again raised his attacks on government policy since his declaration three years ago that industry should be prepared for a "bare knuckle fight" with the Government, despite recent criticism that the CBI was "whingeing" in calling for a new government stimulus to the economy.

It would be wrong for Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, to raise taxes in next spring's budget, Sir Terence said. "It could kill the recovery not sustain it," he said.

The CBI is much less optimistic about the health of the economy than the Government, believing that overall growth next year will slip back to about 2 per cent, compared with the Treasury's more optimistic prediction of 3 per cent.

The consumer boom is solely responsible for the slow upturn in the economy and there are fewer signs that manufacturing industry's prospects will continue to improve, according to CBI surveys.

Delegates at the annual CBI



Sir Terence: increased taxes could kill recovery.

conference this month were in agreement that some stimulus to economic growth could occur hand-in-hand with the continuing drive to reduce inflation and bring down interest rates.

Sir Terence also seized the opportunity yesterday to attack Mr Lawson's decisions to raise National Insurance contributions and energy prices.

"Industries like chemicals, paper, glass, steel and man-made fibres are paying 20 per cent more for their electricity than their European rivals. They need a reduction in their charges, not an increase."

Sharp's the word at C & W

By Our Financial Staff

The board of Cable & Wireless lived up to the name of its headquarters building, Mercury, when it sped through an extraordinary meeting yesterday in a record time of 2 minutes 50 seconds.

The meeting had been called to issue a special preference share of £1 to the Government, which intends to sell half its 45 per cent stake soon.

The share gives the Government the power of veto on any winding up of the company or any material disposal of its assets and certain, but unspecified, "other events".

Mr Eric Sharp, chairman, also informed the 20 shareholders that turned up, that article 120 will be altered to ensure that future chief executives of the company are British citizens.

On the dot of 4 pm Mr Sharp called the meeting to order, asked shareholders to take the special resolution as read and then offered to answer any questions. None were asked.

At least 40 seconds were wasted while shareholders dithered over which one would second the motion. That taken care of, they voted unanimously to support the board.

Mr Sharp then thanked them for attending, he hoped they at least had enjoyed a cup of tea - and the meeting was closed.

Call to upgrade local chambers

Britain's chambers of commerce should be given legal status and be beefed up to take over some of the functions carried out by local authorities, according to a report out today.

The chambers could administer trading standards, monitor the disposal of toxic wastes, run local airports and promote tourism and exports, the report says. They could also become more closely involved in vocational training.

The report, by Miss Norvala Foster, a Conservative MEP, is the result of an 18-month study into European chambers of commerce.

It suggests that membership of chambers could be made obligatory.

Travel agents to merge

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Hogg Robinson Travel, part of the Hogg Robinson insurance group, is understood to have reached agreement yesterday to take over Wakefield Fortune Travel from Holland America Line (HAL). The merger would create the third largest travel agency chain in Britain.

Hogg Robinson would not comment last night.

Talks between Hogg Robinson and Wakefield's privately-owned parent, which has strong Netherlands connections, have been going on for more than 12 weeks.

Originally the talks are believed to have centred on a price of about £8m for Wakefield, which has 95 branches. The price was later

dropped to between £5m and £6m and there was increasing speculation that Hogg Robinson wanted to bring it below £5m.

Although Hogg Robinson has slightly fewer travel shops than Wakefield a merging of the two chains would closely challenge the two largest organizations in the field, Thomas Cook and Pickfords Travel. Cook and Pickfords each has more than 200 outlets.

Wakefield is profitable at the trading level but has not been making a bottom line contribution to HAL because it has been working off losses incurred up to three years ago and is also servicing recent extensive investments.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Allianz bid 'waiting for Whitehall'

Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank advisers to the West German insurer Allianz Versicherungs, explained yesterday why it has taken so long for Allianz to respond to BAT Industries rival takeover bid for Eagle Star Holdings.

It said Allianz is still awaiting government clearance for its original bid. This approval - that Allianz's chairman is a suitable person to run an insurance company - is expected today or tomorrow.

Allianz's offer lapses tomorrow but it is not obliged to reveal its next move until Monday.

● Johnson Matthey, the precious metal refiners and bankers, suffered a fall in pretax profits from £18.4m to £15.2m in the six months to end September. The dividend was maintained at 3p net while earnings per share declined from 15.9 to 15.5p. The shares gained 15p to 225p.

● International Thomson Organisation, the oil and publishing multinational, increased its earnings before extraordinary items for the nine months to the end of September by 36.5 per cent to £60.2m. Earnings per share were 43.2 against 31.7p.

● One of the proposals to be put to Unilever's shareholders on December 12 is to restore the authorized capital, as stated on November 21, to its original figure.

Dow dips in active trading

New York (AP Dow Jones) - Wall Street stocks moved sharply downward in active early trading. The Dow Jones industrial average fell about 3.5 points to 1,272, while the transportation average dropped more than six points to 606.

Declines edged ahead of advances by about seven-to-six. Honeywell was down 1 at 133½. International Business Machines was down ¾ at 120½. General Motors fell ¾ to 76½. Ford fell 1½ to 64½. Chase Manhattan fell ¾ to 46; Motorola fell 2½ to 137½ and



Sir Nicholas Goodison: aiming for greater efficiency.

WALL STREET

American Telephone and Telegraph rose ¼ to 64½. National Semiconductor fell 47½ to 34½. McDonnell Douglas at 58½ was up 2.

Mr Gene Jay Seagle of Herzfeld & Stern said of the market: "We had a sharp enough move up to deserve a day or two of rest here. However, it is clear we are in a renewed phase of the market and a major trend upward."

Barratt attacks TV programme Private building orders up 9%

By John Lawless

New orders for the private construction industry rose by 9 per cent in the three months ending September over the previous quarter.

But the rise over the same period in 1982 was even more impressive - 16 per cent, the Department of the Environment announced yesterday.

There were strong increases in all sectors except private housing, where there was a 4 per cent fall over the previous three months. Given that private housing starts, announced this month, for the third quarter, were also down on the second - from 46,500 to 42,400 - the private housing situation could cause the Government some anxiety.

New orders in that sector, however, were 21 per cent higher than in the same period in 1982, when there were 38,700 starts.

sector housing, which rose 26 per cent, but stood still against the comparable period last year.

A rise in orders could have been expected, however, given the lowly starts figure in the third quarter. At 9,200 it compared with 13,000 in the second quarter, and 12,600 in the same period of 1982.

New orders in the public works rose 10 per cent over the previous quarter, and 25 per cent over the same period in 1982.

Private industrial orders rose 18 and 20 per cent for the two periods, but private commercial orders, mainly for offices, rose by 11 and 4 per cent.

The value of public-sector housing new orders in the third quarter was provisionally put at £253m; and private housing at £771m.

● Barratt Developments has lodged a formal complaint with the Independent Broadcasting Authority alleging that Granada Television World in Action

programme breached the authority's guidelines.

The programme cast doubt on the durability of timber-framed housing and the company believes that several participants were unfairly edited.

Barratt is Britain's biggest builder of timber-framed housing and the programme, screened in the summer, caused a collapse in its share price, with £60m being wiped off the company's value at one point.

Sir Lawrie Barratt, the chairman, chose the occasion of the company's annual shareholders' meeting in London yesterday to accuse the programme of "grossly misrepresenting the company and others".

He said that since the programme was screened the National House-Building Council and the Building Research Establishment had published reports clearing timber-framed housing of the charges.

Fraser wins court case

The House of Fraser stores group yesterday defended an action in the Edinburgh Court of Session by Lomro, its leading shareholder, over plans to spend £100m on modernizing about 50 stores.

Lomro's two directors on the Fraser board had applied to the court for an interim interdict which would have prevented Fraser proceeding with its plans until the full board had been given detailed information.

Major decisions of Fraser are taken by an executive committee, but referred back to the full board for approval. Fraser says that had the case been won by Lord Duncan-Sandys, Lomro chairman, and Mr Roland "Tory" Rowland, Lomro's chief executive, they would have been able to take Fraser to court to justify major items of capital expenditure.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 724.4 down 1.3
FT 100 Index 83.19 down 0.27
FT All Share 452.56 down 0.30
Bergsma 18,035
Datastream USM Leaders Index 94.55 down 0.2
New York Dow Jones Average (latest) 1,276.93 up 1.12
Hongkong Hang Seng Index 833.97 down 2.0
Amsterdam 152.1 up 1.5
Sydney AO Index 722.2 up 4.9
Frankfurt Commerzbank Index 1012.5 up 9.2
Brussels General Index 126.73 inch.
Paris CAC Index 150.3 up 0.6
Zurich SKA General 296.5 up 1.5

CURRENCIES

STERLING
\$1.4680 down 45pts
Index 83.4 down 0.1
DM 3.96 down 0.0050
FF 12.0425 down 0.0325
Yen 344.50 down 1.50
Dollar Index 128.4 inch.
DM 2.6830 down 25
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.4680
Dollar DM 2.7040

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates
Bank base rates 9
Finance houses base rate 10
Discount market loans week fixed 8½
3 month interbank 9½-9¼
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 9½-9¼/16
3 month DM 6½-6¼/16
3 month FR 13½-13

US rates
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9½
Treasury long bond 102½/32-102½/32

ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for interest period October 5 to November 1, 1983 inclusive: 9.393 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$375.75 pm \$375.75
close \$375.75-\$376.50
(£255.256)
New York latest: \$375.75
Kruggerand (per coin):
\$387-388.50 (£263-264.50)
Sovereigns (new):
\$88-89 (£60-60.50)
*Excludes VAT

Pretax profits up 62% to £6.02m.

Total dividend up 23.5% to 5.25p plus one for one share bonus.

No. 1 in the UK
Last year 500,000 cars passed through 14 BCA auction centres giving us 10% of the UK secondhand car market.

No. 2 in the USA
BCA now own six auctions in the US and a further four acquisitions are planned. The US now accounts for 45% of BCA's turnover of £685m (1982-£299m).

Trading up in the UK
Fleet vehicles, heavy commercial vehicles and plant account for the increasing proportion of BCA's UK business.

The outlook
Chairman Mr. David Wickins is looking for further progress in 1984 especially from the USA. In his Statement he comments... Every car, coach, truck and van on the road is a used vehicle. The market is vast and growing every day... I have no reason to doubt that 1984 will again be a record year and I shall certainly do everything I can to make it so.

THE BRITISH CAR AUCTION GROUP PLC
Everyone Drives A Used Car

Copies of the Report & Accounts can be obtained from:
The Secretary, British Car Auctions PLC, Expend House,
Hindhead, Surrey GU26 6TJ. Tel: Hindhead (042873) 7440.

Some sparkle at Johnson Matthey

It is a favourable reflection on the state of Johnson Matthey's balance sheet that the precious metal refiner and banker has been able to absorb the very serious American jewelry setback. The process has been assisted by some fortuitous accounting which revalues properties by £30m has more or less restored shareholders' funds. Nevertheless, the company's bankers should not be losing sleep.

In the event, the American losses partly caused by unexpectedly low demand for jewelry, are likely to be nearer the bottom end of the £35m to £50m range revealed by Johnson Matthey last month. After savage cutbacks, including the resignation yesterday of Mr J H Lintley, president of the North American division, the American jewelry operation is virtually breaking even, albeit at a much lower level. Johnson Matthey is adamant that the other American companies are performing well and that it does not intend to abandon the jewelry business.

But the real problem posed by the American jewelry debacle is paradoxically underlined by the success of the manufacturing parts of the group. Chemicals and refining saved the day by raising their pretax profits from £2.8m in the first half of last year to £10.1m.

The recovery is Detroit, and elsewhere in the vehicle business, has greatly increased the demand for exhaust catalysts, and chemical products have responded to the recovery of industrial output.

Much the same applies to mechanical production, which covers components for end users such as the rapidly expanding electronics and

health care industries, and to colours and transfers. The difficulty in the latter case has been the slow development of consumer demand for ceramics. Mechanical production's profits turned round from a loss of £200,000 to a profit of £1.1m, and colours made £1.6m against a £400,000 loss.

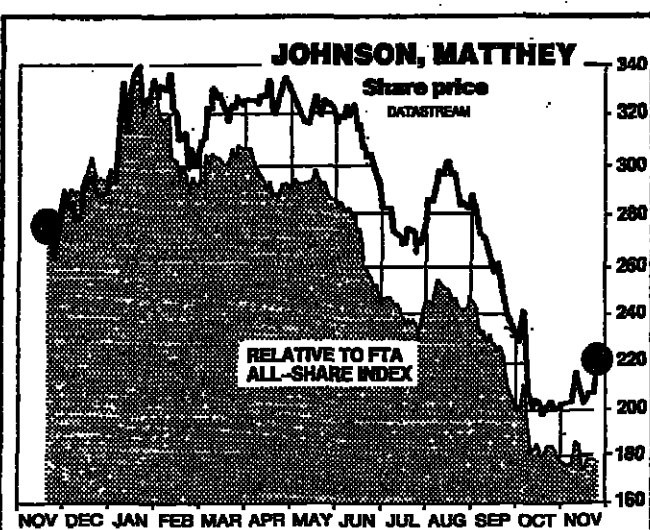
The most important area not to have shown an improvement was banking, dealing and trading where profits slipped fractionally to £13.2m. The catch here was the stubborn refusal of the gold market to respond to ever mounting political tensions when returns on dollar assets were still so attractive. By contrast, platinum trading was brisk.

This improving trend in the company's mainstream activities was becoming evident towards the end of the last financial year. The high interest charge of £12.5m against £2.9m is mainly a response to the delays and cost of starting the West Deptford smelter in New Jersey. But well-placed though Johnson Matthey may be in these businesses, and particularly in precious metal refining, it is still vulnerable to the industrial cycle.

The American jewelry venture was intended to offset that exposure. What will Johnson Matthey do instead?

Rothmans International

Brewing in Canada and overseas associates have come to the rescue of Rothmans International during a period when profits from the group's main activity of selling cigarettes in Germany and Britain are in sharp decline.



In the half-year to the end of September, group pretax profits rose from £66.8m to £79.9m after adjusting the comparable result to account for the new practice of using average rather than period-end exchange rates for calculating the results of overseas businesses.

The chief factor was an outstanding performance from Carling O'Keefe, the Canadian brewing offshoot which saw its volume sales soar during the summer.

On top of that, the company had a successful launch with its Highlife beer taking its share of the total Canadian market to something approaching 30 per cent. Canadian results were further flattered by the currency's weakness when translated into pounds.

Unfortunately for Rothmans, there is a sizeable minority shareholding in Carling and after this has been stripped out below the lone group earnings actually fell. They are down from £33m to £30m.

Moreover, with the contribution of associate companies to pretax profits growing - it was up from £13.2m to £23.1m during the half-year - thanks largely to the main Australian associate whose profits were up 36 per cent - the quality of these earnings must be in some doubt.

The main tobacco businesses in Britain and Germany have continued to suffer from a combination of falling volume and fierce price wars.

The interim dividend is up from 1.3p to 2p but the group says it will only maintain the final and the shares, down 5p to 113p yesterday, look unexciting.

Readicut Int

The City has seen many false dawns at Readicut International, the rug kit and specialist textile maker, but this year it should be able to pay something more than the nominal dividend shareholders have put up with for years.

Despite a doubled loss of £1.2m in the handicraft division, which sells kit rugs by mail order, the group result has been turned round by more than £2m from a loss of £1.9m to a profit of £443,000.

Much of the improvement stems from stronger demand for carpets from the car industry with the Ford Sierra now in full production and the BL LM10 just round the corner.

The company says results from Regal Rugs were excellent. Profits from carpets increased from £333,000 to £1.1m. The improvement should be maintained, although orders look a little weaker for the second half, particularly on the traditional contract carpet side.

Furnishings and textiles also improved sharply from £371,000 to £1.6m with a particular rise on the fabrics side. However, profits in the carpet and furnishings divisions are barely back to 1981 levels.

Most of the increased loss on the crafts is down to the US, where direct involvement in mail order has since been abandoned and in Germany, where the operation is now being controlled from France.

These two changes, together with the seasonal improvement in demand in the second half should ensure the division breaks even for the period.

Without the hefty rationalization costs which took the attributable loss last year to more than £7m, Readicut should end the year well in the black, but a long way short of 1979's £9.3m. Real recovery awaits 1984-85 at the earliest, but in the meanwhile cash flow is positive and the gearing should fall sharply from last year's uncomfortable level of 70 per cent.

New chief at Flight Refuelling

Flight Refuelling (Holdings):

Mr Giles Irwin becomes financial director from December 5.

Continental Illinois Limited: Mr Philippe Truffaut has been made a managing director. Mr Peter Anderson II, Mr Eric Darras, Mr Paul Gersh and Mr Edwin Rides have become executive directors.

Telecommunication Engineering and Manufacturing Association: Mr Rhys Williams, managing director of GECON, has succeeded Mr Des Pitcher, former managing director of Plessey Telecommunications and Office Systems, as president.

Nabisco Brands Foods: The following appointments have been made to the grocery division: Mr E Verschuieren becomes managing director; Mr J M Green, director operations; Mr C Curtin, marketing director (biscuit and export); Mr D A Groves, marketing director (cereals); Mr R B Edwards, director (finance and administration); Mr J L Walsh, sales director; Mr J J Lennon, personnel director; Mr G M B Darley, production director (Aintree); Mr J Benton, production director (Welwyn); and Mr A J Hunt, trading director.

The following have been appointed to the distribution division: Mr D F Fletcher as managing director; Mr J Gomer, commercial director; Mr M Tong, acting operations director; Mr A Bond, finance director; Mr T Jenkins, MIS director; and Mr L Byrne, personnel director.

Caronation: Mr John East becomes finance and administration director, and Mr Peter Ward, human foods director.

Bell & Hyman: Mrs Mary Butler has been appointed a director.

Commercial Property

Air of optimism in current surveys

The many and diverse surveys and forecasts which monitor every move in the property field are all indicating an improvement in the property market. Their authors are all cautious people, not given to excess, so there are no exaggerated claims; but an air of optimism permeates their pronouncements for the last month.

The main indicator is the amount of floorspace available, and Debenham Tewson and Chinnocks' office floorspace survey for October shows that market conditions in the West End of London are continuing to improve, with a decrease in available space in both the W1 and SW1 postal districts.

In the W1 area, space now stands at 1,918,000 square feet, the lowest total since the firm began to publish figures for the West End a year ago. During 1983 available floorspace peaked in March at 2,364,000 square feet, since when there has been a steady take-up rate and a fall in the rate of new supply being brought onto the market.

For the SW1 area, available floorspace decreased by 1 per cent to 1,942,000 square feet, with the number of units also decreasing from 224 to 213. Unlike the W1 market, however, the change was not as a result of take up exceeding newly available space. While 117,000 square feet was brought to the market, only 98,000 square feet was let, sold or placed under offer, and the balance of 40,000 square feet was accounted for by space withdrawn from the market.

Debenham Tewson and Chinnocks found no discernible trend from the figures for the Holborn and City of London areas, but report continued strong demand from banks for buildings in the centre of the City and for buildings of good specifications and design outside the immediate centre.

Figures for the City of London produced in Richard Saunders and Partners' City Floorspace Survey show 189,389 square feet let or under offer during the month, consistent with the monthly average. Total office accommodation available showed a fall to 3,821,344 square feet, the third month in succession that space has fallen.

By contrast, on the City fringes office accommodation

available for letting increased to 5,708,402 square feet, a new high.

Space let or placed under offer totalled 168,080 square feet, again consistent with the monthly average.

Altogether, available floorspace for central London stood at 9,000,000 square feet at the end of October, representing a 2 per cent decrease on the equivalent figure for September. A total of 287,000 square feet was made newly available. 273,000 square feet let, sold or placed under offer, and 165,000 square feet withdrawn from the market.

Noticing that property sector shares have recently begun to outperform the All Share Index, Merchant Investors Assurance conclude "1984 could be a turning point for the property market". Wynn Evans, chief surveyor of their Property Fund, points out however, that it would be naive to assume there will be a resurgence across the whole range of property activity.

With the decline of the manufacturing centres in the Midlands and North, particularly in the heavy engineering sector, there are vast areas of vacant industrial and warehouse property which will never be reoccupied, he believes. "New high-technology businesses are rejecting the traditional concepts of the industrial estate and demanding higher quality, more adaptable space in a better environment."

Mr Evans detects changes in office accommodation brought about by the rapid advance of information technology which "calls into question the justification for housing number-crunching clerks in towering city office blocks. The cost of transmitting information to decision makers and traders in the City by a cable link between computers must be less than the personal, social and money expense of shifting commuters to and from their home towns."

The resulting decentralization means that the search is on for sites in the towns bordering the M25 and other well-located centres.

The office sector has been responsible for a slight slowing in commercial rental growth during the last six months, according to the Investors Chronicle Hillier Parker Rent Index No 13, November 1983. It shows that growth was at the rate of 3.5 per cent per annum compared with 3.3 per cent per annum for the previous period.

Shops, where the rate of growth has been steadily increasing since November 1981, again showed the fastest growth with an increase of 5.4 per cent per annum.

Christopher Warman

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY PRICES

Coffee, cocoa, sugar in pounds per cwt. (except where stated)

Gas-oil in US \$ per metric ton

RUSSIAN

Dec 83 889-84

Jan 84 890-81

Apr 84 891-70

Jul 84 891-60

Oct 84 891-50

Dec 84 891-40

Jan 85 891-30

Apr 85 891-20

Jul 85 891-10

Oct 85 891-00

Dec 85 890-90

Jan 86 890-80

Apr 86 890-70

Jul 86 890-60

Oct 86 890-50

Dec 86 890-40

Jan 87 890-30

Apr 87 890-20

Jul 87 890-10

Oct 87 890-00

Dec 87 889-90

Jan 88 889-80

Apr 88 889-70

Jul 88 889-60

Oct 88 889-50

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Jan 96 885-80

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Jan 97 885-30

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Jul 97 885-10

Oct 97 885-00

Dec 97 884-90

Jan 98 884-80

Apr 98 884-70

Jul 98 884-60

Oct 98 884-50

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Jan 2000 883-80

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Jul 2000 883-60

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Dec 2000 883-40

Jan 2001 883-30

Apr 2001 883-20

Jul 2001 883-10

Oct 2001 883-00

Dec 2001 882-90

Jan 2002 882-80

Apr 2002 882-70

Jul 2002 882-60

Oct 2002 882-50

Dec 2002 882-40

Jan 2003 882-30

Apr 2003 882-20

Jul 2003 882-10

Oct 2003 882-00

Dec 2003 881-90

Jan 2004 881-80

Apr 2004 881-70

Jul 2004 881-60

Oct 2004 881-50

Dec 2004 881-40

Jan 2005 881-30

Apr 2005 881-20

Jul 2005 881-10

Oct 2005 881-00

Dec 2005 880-90

Jan 2006 880-80

Apr 2006 880-70

Jul 2006 880-60

Oct 2006 880-50

Dec 2006 880-40

Jan 2007 880-30

Apr 2007 880-20

Jul 2007 880-10

Oct 2007 880-00

Dec 2007 879-90

Jan 2008 879-80

Apr 2008 879-70

Jul 2008 879-60

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Dec 2009 878-90

Jan 2010 878-80

Apr 2010 878-70

Jul 2010 878-60

Oct 2010 878-50

Dec 2010 878-40

Jan 2011 878-30

Apr 2011 878-20

Jul 2011 878-10

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Dec 2011 877-90

Jan 2012 877-80

Apr 2012 877-70

Jul 2012 877-60

Oct 2012 877-50

Dec 2012 877-40

Based on an industrial heritage stretching back more than 200 years, this Shropshire town moves into a new era tomorrow with the opening of the M54 motorway. David Felton explains the importance of a fast, easy route to the west Midlands.

Telford A SPECIAL REPORT



A 17-mile stretch of motorway running through the Shropshire and Staffordshire countryside is to be opened tomorrow and on it hangs the future success of the new town of Telford which has suffered severe growing pains over the last 20 years.

The M54 Telford motorway links the east Shropshire new town with the M6 and so brings Birmingham and the West Midlands conurbation much closer. Telford will also have a 20-acre enterprise zone from January and a dual pronged attack is now to be launched on the 21 per cent unemployment rate which is the highest in the west Midlands.

For a town which started out as Dawley new town in 1963 and painted a picture of a brave new world for the Birmingham and Wolverhampton overspill population, it was designed to accommodate, Telford has been hard hit by the recession and so has been unable to meet completely the challenge it was set. Industry has been reluctant to move to the town while the area's traditional manufacturing base has been steadily reduced.

time since the recession started to bite in the middle of 1979. Telford Development Corporation, charged with expanding the town in 1968 when Dawley new town was enlarged to take in Oakengates and Wellington and surrounding areas, claims to have created 17,000 new jobs through the establishment in the town of 400 new companies. But as the job creation programme has continued apace indigenous employers have been in decline. The area is steeped in industrial history based on the east Shropshire coalfield and plentiful supplies of iron ore. As the birthplace of the industrial revolution in Ironbridge, Coalbrookdale and the surrounding areas the base was set for heavy engineering or "metal bashing" in the words of one development corporation official, and that has continued up to the present day.

Job losses could be a thing of the past

But the ability of local companies like GKN Sankey, Glyndwr Foundries and Ever Ready to withstand the recession was weak and since 1971 employment in indigenous industries has fallen from 17,500 to a little over 10,000. Development corporation officials are hoping that net job losses for the town are a thing of the past and are eager to capitalize on the motorway and enterprise zone. Lord Northfield, chairman of the develop-

ment corporation, says: "We have established the framework of a modern industrial city based upon the new technologies, the microchip, robotics and automation, upon which the whole future of our country depends. It is no idle boast when I tell the world that Telford is truly the growth point of modern industry in the west Midlands."

A main plank of the town's industrial strategy has been to take Telford's name to multinational based overseas and that strategy appears to be paying off with two major Japanese investments in Telford announced recently. Maxell, a subsidiary of Hitachi will next year open a plant in the town manufacturing video cassette

tapes and Ricoh, the world's biggest producer of photocopiers, is to build a manufacturing plant in the enterprise zone.

But while there is universal acclaim for the motorway, many in the town are bitter that it has taken so long to be built. One industrialist said that it was 15 years too late for Telford, while Mr Mike Osborne, deputy general manager of the development corporation, said: "If we'd had the motorway earlier we should have had a lot less unemployment. We would have attracted bigger industries here at an earlier date which would have negated to an extent the horrifying job losses we had in the 1970s and early 1980s."

Changed national economic circumstances led to a downward revision of the town's original population target of 220,000 set in 1968 and now the aim is to increase from the present 107,000 to around 130,000 by about 1990.

The direction the town was to take was also changed as it no longer was to be an overspill area for Birmingham but rather an attempt to instil new economic life into the decaying area of the old East Shropshire coalfield and become the economic growth point of the west Midlands.

A serious problem for the engineers building the town has been the vast number of disused mine shafts that litter the area and which have to be made safe before the land can be used, and

at the last count 1,421 shafts had been capped. The town has its local critics who claim that development has destroyed communities that existed prior to designation, but the planners reject the argument and point to the impact they have had on the environment through land reclamation.

"As the latest annual report sent by the development corporation to the Government states: "The transformation of the abandoned east Shropshire coalfield into beautiful and valuable, Shropshire countryside is a factor which plays no small part in attracting investment in housing, commerce and industry to the new town."

The report goes on to paint a bleak picture of the short-term future for Telford's unem-

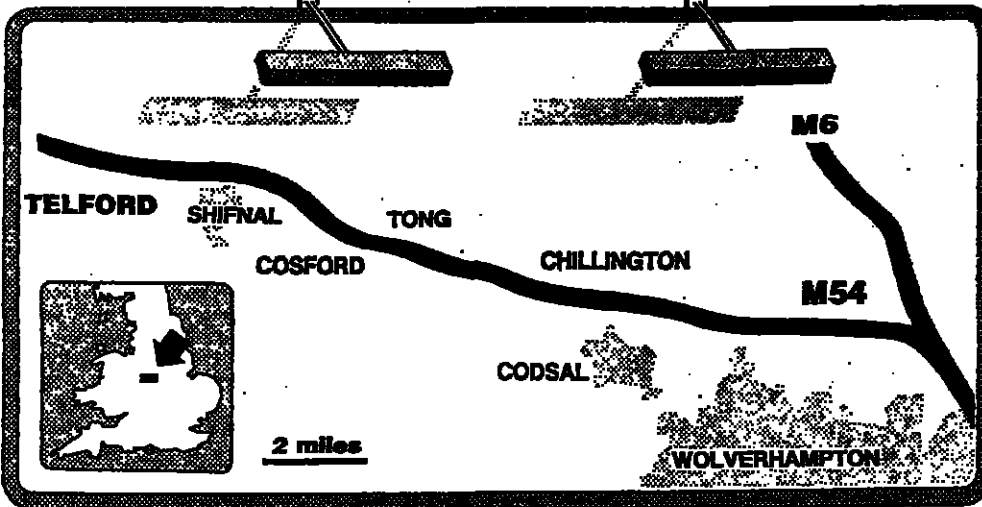
ployed. "Not only has unemployment remained tragically high, but the figure, though stable, has masked real growth in youth unemployment and in long term unemployment. With the most optimistic forecasts showing only a slow decrease in unemployment the problems and consequences of unemployment are likely to be with us for years to come," it says.

A promising sign is the growing trend of "trading up" to bigger premises of companies that were established first in small factory units, but the corporation is critical of the reluctance of the private sector to finance industrial development. "While there has been considerable success in selling to owner-occupiers the institutional investors demand in-

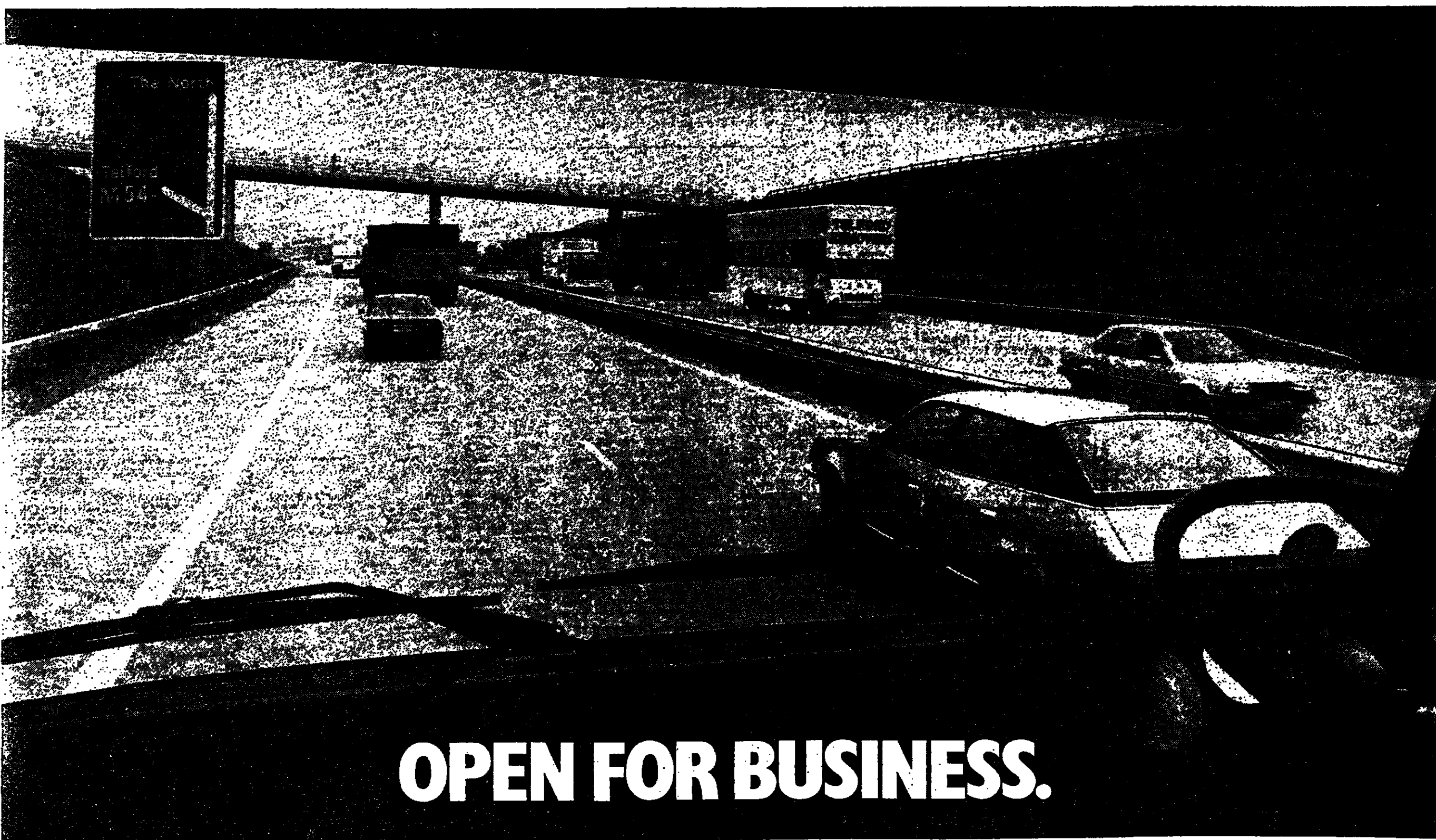
vestment criteria that are frequently incompatible with the flexibility that a new town development corporation needs in managing its estates with employment growth as the main objective," the annual report says.

It will be the development corporation's ability to overcome all the problems facing the town which will make or break Telford but with the advent of the M54 and the enterprise zone prospects look brighter.

On other pages	
The M54 motorway.....	22
Enterprise zone.....	22
Local businesses.....	22 and 24
Ironbridge Gorge Museum	23
Town amenities.....	24



One man with a broom puts the finishing touches to the M54, 17 miles of four-lane carriageway named after engineer Thomas Telford which opens tomorrow and links the new town bearing his name with the country's motorway network. Right: casting a line in the river Severn in the shadow of Ironbridge, Telford's major landmark.



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The £62m motorway link with a man called Telford

Thomas Telford, one of the leading road and bridge engineers of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries built numerous roads in his time, but not many could have been as important as the M54 which opens tomorrow and links the new town bearing his name with the country's motorway network.

The Telford motorway, 17 miles of four lane carriageway costing £62m, provides a direct link with the M6 and the West Midlands along a fast road instead of the narrow A5 trunk road and bridges the centre of Birmingham to within 30 minutes' driving time of the centre of Telford.

The motorway had almost become a test of virility for Telford because after many delays caused by objections from the environmentalists' lobby it began to appear that the

whole future of the town hung in getting the motorway built. The kind of companies Telford was trying to attract were reluctant to bring their investment, and jobs, to the town when the link with the M6 was the tortuously-slow A5.

First approval was given for the M54 by the Government in 1973 when the plan was for a six lane road costing £1m a mile. Over the period of three public inquiries, called after strong objections from landowners along the route in Shropshire and Staffordshire and environmentalists who argued it would cause irreparable damage to unspoilt countryside, the cost escalated and the road was reduced in size.

The wrangling finally came to an end just over two years ago and in the intervening period the motorway has been in four

sections, and when Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, performs the opening ceremony tomorrow, the town of Telford will have a collective sigh of relief.

Lord Northfield, chairman of Telford Development Corporation, says the M54 has been talked about for so long that people think it is going to produce miracles overnight. "By itself it will do no such thing, but together with several other factors, it will enhance the image of Telford which is increasingly bringing us to the notice of industry and commerce worldwide."

"Undoubtedly the M54 will make a profound difference to us, an industry, commerce, tourism, house building and leisure. I see the M54 as the starting point for a new boom period, bringing jobs more quickly as more industrialists

are encouraged to set up in the town and more people wanting to come and live in this delightful, dynamic environment," Lord Northfield said.

Several concessions have been made to the environmentalists in the form of changed plans, notably with the reduction of six lanes to four and through lowering the road so that it is hidden from view. Nesting boxes for swifs have been constructed under some of the bridges in order that breeding patterns are not disturbed, and half a million cubic metres of colliery waste has been removed from the Hilton Main colliery near the M6 to provide screening mounds.

The motorway was built through five contracts, with the four sections being constructed simultaneously and the fifth contract covering the Forge

Junction interchange which links the motorway to the town's main shopping centre and business park. The approach to Telford is marked by a tri-hedral spire standing 70 feet above one of the main roundabout junctions for the industrial areas. The structure, constructed from three pre-cast concrete triangular units, so finished in skye marble and white cement to give it a brilliant white appearance.

The 17 miles of motorway stretches from its junction with the M6 at Essington just south of the town centre where it will link with the already open section of urban motorway which goes through the northern part of the town before linking with the A5 trunk road near the landmark Wrekin mountain on the western edge of Telford. In addition to boosting business

traffic with Telford the new motorway will be a big time saver for holidaymakers travelling to mid and north Wales.

Telford's attention will now switch to attempts to improve rail links with the rest of the country. The four direct inter city links between Telford and London each day are to be supplemented by a fifth train next year but town developers are trying to persuade British Rail to seek government approval for electrification of track between Shrewsbury and Wolverhampton.

BR is under pressure to take a quick decision because the present diesel rolling stock is rapidly reaching the end of its useful life. The development corporation is also having discussions with BR on proposed new railway station to serve the town centre which is expected to cost around £1m.

ENTERPRIZE ZONE

The rush by new firms eager to move in

The industrial map of Telford is likely to start changing dramatically over the next year or so following the town's designation by the Government as an enterprise zone. The announcement of its new status, with the attendant incentives industry, which has co-incided with completion of the M54 link, has provided a strong fillip to the town's confidence.

Already the first 22 acres of the 270 acre enterprise zone has been allocated to the Japanese copier manufacturer Ricoh which plans to make the town its European manufacturing base and will employ 110 people when it starts operations next January. Mike Morgan, manager of the zone and commercial director of Telford Development Corporation says that designations has led to a rash of inquiries from companies eager to move to the east Shropshire new town.

Previously Telford has had to compete for new industrial development with areas that have either been given special financial assistance by the Government or were able to boast better road communications. Now Telford has the dual advantage of the enterprise zone and the motorway link with the M6 to use against its opponents in the search for new industry.

Formal designation of the enterprise zone takes place in January, but already the industrial salesmen from Telford are pouring overseas pushing the extra advantages of moving to the town now, and so continuing the strategy of seeking investment and jobs from big companies in the new high technology industries.

The enterprise zone is divided into five areas. The first zone is in the new town centre adjoining the indoor shopping centre and is close to the main interchange for the M54. The idea is to create a business park on this site, adjacent to several existing office developments, with encouragement being given to further office development and incorporating a five to six acre site for a hotel. Mr Morgan expects the hotel development to materialize "sooner rather than later".

The second zone is close to the motorway on the other side of the town centre and is expected to have a mixed use for offices, warehousing, light industry with the 11 acre section of the area nearest the motorway providing a site for a single occupier.

Area number three in the zone is the 22 acre "campus site" again alongside the motorway which had been taken by Ricoh. It overlooks a lake and has a substantial amount of land surrounding it to provide a good environment with the possibility of more land for expansion being available.

The fourth zone is almost all of the undeveloped land in the Stafford Park industrial area which is on the eastern fringe of the town. Again there is the prospect of a plot, this time of about 30 acres, fronting the motorway for a single company to develop with the rest of the

zone providing sites down to two acres for companies proposing buildings in excess of 40,000 sq. ft. The fifth zone, also close to the motorway, forms part of an existing industrial complex and is aimed at the smaller development with divisions of up to one acre sites and small workshop units.

The town's planners have allocated uses with the aim of creating a mix that will be attractive to prospective occupants who can expect to enjoy the normal benefits of an enterprise zone, chiefly exemption from rates on industrial and commercial properties and 100 per cent allowances for corporation and income tax purposes for capital expenditure on industrial and commercial buildings.

The other main advantage, which along with all the other benefits applies for the 10 year life of the zone, is that the bureaucracy and regulations attached to the developments are greatly reduced. No planning permission is required, providing the use falls within the general use designated for the area, and building regulations are greatly simplified.

Initially, the town was designed to take overspill from Birmingham so the "fishing ground" for new industry was centred mainly in the west Midlands, but with the recession and the change of direction taken by the town the net was widened, and the development corporation went in search of overseas investments. Regular promotional visits are made by senior officials to Europe, Japan and the United States and the number of foreign controlled companies investing in Telford has now risen to around 40 providing more than 2,000 jobs.

The last two major investments announced by the corporation, Hitachi Maxell and Ricoh, have both been Japanese but the town's salesmen are sensitive to the charge that they are neglecting British industry in their search for jobs. They point out that the majority of new factories in the town are British owned and controlled.

Ricoh is the world's largest manufacturer of photocopiers, employing 17,500 people. It will initially manufacture in Telford photo conductors and dry toner for its copiers but the company hopes to be able to manufacture other office equipment if new markets appear and it may also use Telford for research and development. The factory, on about 45 acres, is now being built and Hiroshi Hamada, president of the Ricoh company, said that Telford was chosen because it "is in the heart of industrial England and offers excellent communications. It is also in a delightful environment."

That last comment is not lost on the development corporation which uses the other attractions of the enterprise zone, such as its closeness to the modern town centre, town park and the landscaped environment, as part of the "bait" to industrialists.



Money man: coin sorting at Chapman Cash Processing



Tractor man: shifting tractor cabs at GKN Sankey

TELFORD STATISTICS

	December 1982	March 1983	Change during 1982/83
POPULATION (Estimated total in designated Areas)	74,750	106,600	+2,100
EMPLOYMENT (Jobs-Industrial and Commercial)	496	7,470	+970
In land made available by the Corporation elsewhere	35,175	31,200	-1,800
total	35,671	38,670	-830
EMPLOYMENT (firms on land made available by the Corporation)	-	55	-1
n private factories	-	382	+29
n Corporation-built factories	-	437	+28
total	-	437	+28

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Hitachi, the big name catch

The drive to attract investment from foreign multinationals received a significant boost this year when Hitachi Maxell decided to build its European production headquarters in Telford which will employ upwards of 200 people.

The big name "catch" of Hitachi, which was prepared to spend £20m on its factory on the Apley Castle industrial estate in the north of the town, was seen as vindication of many hours of lobbying Japanese companies and sales visits to that country.

Maxell will be only the second manufacturer of video tapes based in Britain when it starts production early next year, just nine months after the first works were started on the 50 acre site. The 110,000 sq. ft. building will occupy only part of the site and the company has taken a larger area because it hopes to expand production, possibly with new products.

The building will cost under £4m and the bulk of the investment will go into high technology manufacturing equipment. The company has

started hiring some of the initial 170-strong workforce which will in the first year produce nine million cassettes and it plans to increase production to at least twelve million a year.

Maxell is headed by nine Japanese and the rest of the workforce will be hired locally including senior engineers who are being sent to Japan for training on the company's latest automated production machinery. "We have found no problem at all in hiring people with the right engineering background in Telford," said Ken Kakurai, managing director of Maxell (UK).

The UK arm was set up in Harrow, Middlesex, three years ago when the company decided it would build a European manufacturing plant, but has operated only as a sales organization for imported Maxell tapes. The decision to build in Telford was announced to coincide with a visit to Japan last January by Patrick Jenkins, the then Secretary of State for Industry.

Mr Kakurai said the company had visited several coun-

tries, including West Germany, Belgium and Holland before choosing Britain. Maxell executives toured prospective sites in Northern Ireland, South Wales and the north east, all of which were able to offer investment incentives while at that time Telford had no special financial assistance to use as a bait.

"We came here secretly several times before we finally approached the development corporation," said Mr Kakurai, "and we decided to select this place because even without grants it is worthwhile." He listed the town's attractions, including the new motorway link, a high quality indigenous workforce and the willingness of the development corporation to smooth out initial difficulties.

The corporation is hoping that the Japanese presence in the town will increase and Maxell will be the first manufacturing company to bring to east Shropshire, Japanese methods of management which, according to Mr Kakurai, lay great emphasis on the company's relationship with the community. Telford workers will also be introduced to Maxell's "one class" factory where everyone from the managing director down wears the same overalls and all eat in the same canteen.

A start from scrap

From a scrap reclamation operation to a distribution centre for high precision microscopes and ophthalmic equipment - that is the transition a small factory unit on Telford's Halesfield industrial estate underwent earlier this year.

When the scrap company moved out, leaving behind an inevitably dirty 8,500 square feet of factory re-design work started on the building, which is typical of the off-the-peg units that Telford Development Corporation builds for rent. The result was a warehouse complex with plush demonstration area for the instrument division of the Japanese Nikon Company.

The instrument division was set up in April after the demise of the Scottish-based Projectina Company which had handled sales of Nikon microscopes and ophthalmic equipment since 1965. The owner of the company retired and the resulting company is staffed by former Projectina personnel.

David Lewis, the division's general manager who was responsible for finding a site for the new distribution operation, said: "I went to about 40 sites before we decided to come to Telford. One of the main reasons for choosing Telford was the help given to us by the

development corporation. They made me feel as if I was wanted, as if I was important."

Much of the groundwork for Nikon's final decision to set up in Telford was laid during a Telford promotional visit to Tokyo when development corporation officials met senior Nikon executives who had not heard of the town before their visit. The Telford unit is the base for a team of 11 Nikon salesmen who are on the road selling instruments to hospitals, schools, universities and the micro-electronics industry.

Leader in an £8m market

Mr Lewis said he hopes the present £1.5m annual turnover will increase to £2m which would make the company leader in the relatively small £8m a year market for microscopical instruments. Nikon is also marketing computer-controlled equipment for opticians to use in testing eyesight which should cut the length of a visit to the optician down to a matter of minutes.

The company hopes that with the advantage of the improvement in road links it will show a 30 per cent increase in sales in its first year in Telford.

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Breathing life back into the industrial revolution



Mile after mile of a long lost age

While Telford's industrial salesmen travel the world in search of new industrial development for the town, the Ironbridge Gorge museum trust is engaged in bringing back life to industrial developments made more than 200 years ago.

The museum, which covers more than nine square miles of the southern part of the town along the banks of the river Severn, has become world renowned for its approach to "living history" as it slowly clears away the debris of a more than a century of neglect from important relics of the industrial revolution.

Ironbridge, and the adjacent small town of Coalbrookdale, was the home of the Darby family who set Britain on the move away from being a basically agricultural economy to world leadership as an industrial nation.

The centrepiece of the museum is the iron bridge itself, a magnificent cast iron structure built in 1779 by Abraham Darby III, which was made possible because of the new technique developed by his grandfather, the first Abraham



Darby, who seven years earlier discovered a way of smelting iron using coke rather than the ever-diminishing suppliers of charcoal.

Furnaces at Coalbrookdale in which Darby perfected that technique have been restored to their original state and form part of a museum of iron which charts the development of iron founding in the wake of Darby's revolutionary discovery. A long list of industrial "first" followed that innovation including the manu-

facture of the first iron railway wheels, cylinders for Newcomen steam engines, the world's first iron boat and, of course, the ribs for the world's first iron bridge.

A series of diverse industries began to spring up along the banks of the Severn, where it threads its way through the steep-sided Ironbridge Gorge, including boat building, rope making, and china and tile industries.

A description in 1837 of the area at the height of its

influence by local author Charles Hulbert gives an insight into the level of industrial activity. "From Coalport to the Iron Bridge, two miles the river passes through the most extraordinary district in the world. The banks on each side are elevated to the height of from three to 400 feet, studded with iron works, brickworks, boat building establishments, retail stores, inns and houses, perhaps 150 vessels on the river, actively employed or waiting for cargoes, while hundreds of busy mortars are assiduously engaged, melting with the heat of the roaring furnace, and though enveloped in thickest smoke and incessant dust are cheerful and happy", he wrote.

With the Iron Bridge as the focal point, the Ironbridge Gorge museum trust, set out to bring the surrounding area back as near as possible to its original form and the process of recreating working examples of the 1830s industry is to continue for at least the next decade. Recognition of the trust's contribution to protecting the country's industrial heritage came in 1977 when it was named Museum of the Year and in 1978 with the

Preserving the past at the Ironbridge Gorge Museum: Top: dressed for the part for pot-making and the old butcher's shop. Left: industrial architecture of a century ago

Council of Europe's first European Museum of the Year award.

The trust has raised about £2.5m from voluntary contributions and grants to finance its work, but total investment in the museum from all sources including the Telford Development Corporation, local authorities and the Government, runs into tens of millions of pounds. The most important, and also costly, civil engineering project undertaken by the museum was the urgent work needed to prevent the iron bridge slowly slipping down the banks of the Severn.

A concrete beam costing £150,000 was placed along the river bed, to strengthen the abutments and prevent almost certain collapse of the bridge.

The museum has also been responsible for rescuing numerous other industrial monuments and bringing them to the Bliths Hill open air museum, where, on 47 acres perched high on the side of the gorge, a working industrial community is being recreated.

Future developments will now be concentrated on an ambitious project to build an iron works at Bliths Hill that is capable of manufacturing wrought iron goods which the trust believes it can sell commercially for specialist products. It hopes to be in production within three years and a large number of trainees from the Government's youth training scheme are employed on the project.

A third project for the future

is the restoration of two houses in Coalbrookdale which were homes of the Darby family.

All of the administration and restoration work at the Ironbridge Gorge museum is carried out by the museum trust while the capital is raised by the Ironbridge Gorge Development Trust. The work of the development trust is aimed more now at seeking grants from private industry toward the cost of specific projects.

A further problem faces the Ironbridge Gorge, a problem which has been brought about by the success of the area as a tourist attraction. Pressure is growing for a by-pass to be built. Lord Northfield, chairman of the development corporation, says in the corporation's recently completed annual report: "The development of Ironbridge as a major tourist attraction, the home of one of the world's most important museums, has led to increasing traffic problems. The future of Ironbridge as a resort as well as the comfort and safety of its residents and visitors now require nothing less than the earliest possible completion of the by-pass."

Success beckons in a glass house

British Brown-Boveri decided to make a clean break with London which had been its headquarters for 76 years when it last year moved into a prestige office block overlooking the new town centre, a building which had for some time been seen by locals as Telford's "white elephant".

The empty Darby House, with its imposing all-glass cladding, seemed to represent Telford's inability to attract companies to the town, but Brown-Boveri's decision to locate its headquarters in the building soon led to other companies moving into the building which will be the centrepiece of the Telford Business Park.

British Brown-Boveri, the UK offshoot of Swiss-based BBC Brown, Boveri and Co, has been involved in Telford since 1976 when it became the first major power engineering company to establish manufacturing operations in the town. That unit was closed by BBC in 1982 when a wholesale restructuring of the company's operations led to the headquarters move to Telford.

The manufacturing section was taken over by some ex-BBC employees, re-named Centre Switchgear and now works almost exclusively for BBC. About 90 people are employed in the head office, with 75 per cent recruited locally and in addition to being the administrative and financial headquarters Telford is also the home of the power engineering division.

The parent company is one of Europe's largest power engineering groups employing 94,000 people in five countries and with a turnover last year of £2,860m.

Control panels for the Thames barrier, control systems and switchgear equipment for the Dinorwic hydro power station in north Wales, engineering work on the country's largest electric iron melting plant for Ford at Leamington Spa and control systems for conveyor routes in the new Selly coalfield, are some of the projects that have been engineered in Telford.

The company's move into the first office development in the town centre was a morale-booster for the development corporation and the company in turn has a prominent building overlooking the M54 and business park.

RICOH HAS A YEN FOR TELFORD.

The Ricoh Company, the world's largest manufacturer of photo copiers, is making a multi-million pound investment in a new factory in Telford. It will be the first Japanese office-equipment production plant in the UK.

The factory will occupy a 47-acre site, with 86,000 sq. ft. (8,000 sq. m.) allocated for initial manufacturing facilities. Production is due to start in January 1985, with a workforce of 100 to begin with.

"We are coming to Britain to be able to better serve our customers in the European market. We chose Telford because it is the heart of industrial England and offers excellent communications," said Mr Hiroshi Hamada, Ricoh's President, when he announced the investment.

We hope that our investment will bring Ricoh more closely into the community in Britain and we look forward to being able to provide an increasing number of jobs as our success continues to grow.

Our local procurement should also be able to assist the economy and provide additional job opportunities.

RICOH

TECHNOLOGY WITH A HUMAN TOUCH



Three men on the course: golfers beside new housing at Sutton Hill, Telford

The town with a touch of Dallas

Telford has always placed great emphasis on major improvements to the environment linked to providing a wide spread of leisure activities as a necessary adjunct to its house building and industrialization programmes and that policy is now beginning to bear fruit as several new leisure developments are either open or close to opening.

The town centre can now boast a championship-sized tennis centre, an ice rink due to open next autumn and a "disco-pub", all of which are designed to bring life to a new shopping centre after nightfall. The importance attached to leisure by both Telford Development Corporation and the local authority, Wrekin district council, is all the more relevant because of the 21 per cent unemployment rate with youngsters suffering the worst.

In the southern part of the town overlooking the Ironbridge Gorge is a £2m hotel and leisure complex linked to the Great Hay golf course. The Telford hotel, golf and country club provides conference facilities, badminton and squash courts and a swimming pool.

There are four major leisure centres around the new town, most linked to schools but open to the public but the main focus

is increasingly likely to be on the town centre. The tennis centre run by a local business has been designated the West Midlands Tennis Centre by the Lawn Tennis Association which means that national championships can be held there.

The building, which houses eight international standard tennis courts and 10 badminton courts was built by the development corporation and leased back to Mr Peter Lloyd who operates it. On the other hand the ice skating rink will be the development corporation's first venture into a commercial leisure operation.

When completed the rink will be handed over to the Wrekin council for management and it has been designed so that it can be used for large scale entertainments as well as skating. The hope is that the tennis centre and rink will attract people not only from within Telford and as Lord Northfield, chairman of the development corporation puts it, will become a "magnet to people from miles around through its proximity to the motorway in the heart of the town."

But the leisure facilities are just part of the services the development corporation has provided since its inception in

1968. Its proudest achievement is the shopping centre which with almost 700,000 square feet under cover, is one of the biggest shopping malls in Britain.

With a section clad in mirrored glass, matching the facade of the nearby Darby House office block, the town

centre takes on a futuristic "Dallas" look. It has its own bus station and is only a few minutes' walk from the 400 acre town park.

There is free car parking for 3,500 cars and while it provides the centrepiece to the town, the development corporation has made improvements to the

shopping areas of the old towns of Wellington, Dawley, Oakengates, Madeley and Ironbridge which now act as satellites to the town centre.

It is a disappointment to all the authorities in Telford that they have been unable to persuade a cinema chain to move into the town. Despite a population of 107,000 there is insufficient interest, according to the cinema operators, and the town's only cinema which had been open for several decades closed earlier this year.

A campaign being waged is for a start to be made on the planned new Telford hospital, which is designed to have 350 beds, four operating theatres, accident unit, X-ray department, and other specialized departments. Building work was due to start this year with completion in 1986 and an opening the following year, but the project has become bogged down in a wrangle over cash.

The Government has agreed to provide the £27m capital cost but the local health authority says that it is not sure it can meet the £9m annual running costs. Pressure is mounting for a quick start on the hospital because it will provide much needed jobs in its construction and is also expected to employ 1,000 permanent staff.



One man and his shop: Keith Stewart, director of Carrefour, Telford's largest store

Chapman's way with money

Chapman Cash Processing has expanded at a remarkable rate since it started business less than three years ago in a small factory on Telford's Stafford Park industrial area. It is success that according to its founder, Colin Chapman, is based entirely on innovation and putting into practice new ideas for handling cash.

In 1980 Mr Chapman started the business with 14 people. He now employs 76 and profits are expected to increase fivefold from last year's £64,000 to £300,000. As an indication of confidence in the company's future £1m is being raised from financial institutions in a private floating of shares to help finance more research and development.

A former Royal Navy officer who served on the first Polaris submarine, Mr Chapman brought to his own business experience in working for one of the biggest cash handling

companies in the country. He used that experience, recruited a team of young graduates and set out to put together cash handling systems that not only counted and packaged money but through computer links provided managements with additional information.

An example of such a system is the package Mr Chapman designed for British Telecom which was trying to reduce losses from its public telephone kiosks. Following the introduction of the system in London there has been an increase of 20 per cent in BT's income.

By providing the BT worker who is emptying the telephone boxes with a simple information card to fill in, information on location of the box, the amount of cash collected and the general state of the box and faults can be fed into BT's computers.

Chapman machinery, all designed and built at Telford, is

now being used in a wide range of banks, stores and security companies. A new development the company is now producing is a coin validator that can learn to recognise coins of any size or origin. This piece of equipment is incorporated in coin counters, which can count segregate and sack up to 550 coins a minute.

About a quarter of the young Chapman workforce are shareholders in the company which Mr Chapman believes has led to a spirit within the company of working together as a team. His design team is responsible for spending the 42 per cent of the budget that goes on research and development.

The first Chapman machine was sold to one of the major clearing banks in 1980 and the company is confident of winning a contract to instal a cash processing system in all the outlets of one of the big chain stores after an initial experiment in 50 stores.

Brown Boveri know-how on ozone generators is good enough for the City of Los Angeles, at the new water treatment plant in San Fernando Valley.

Efficient, and safe

Ozone—'super oxygen'—is used in water treatment as a powerful and safe oxidizing agent that deals effectively with germs, viruses, odours, discoloration and other impurities.

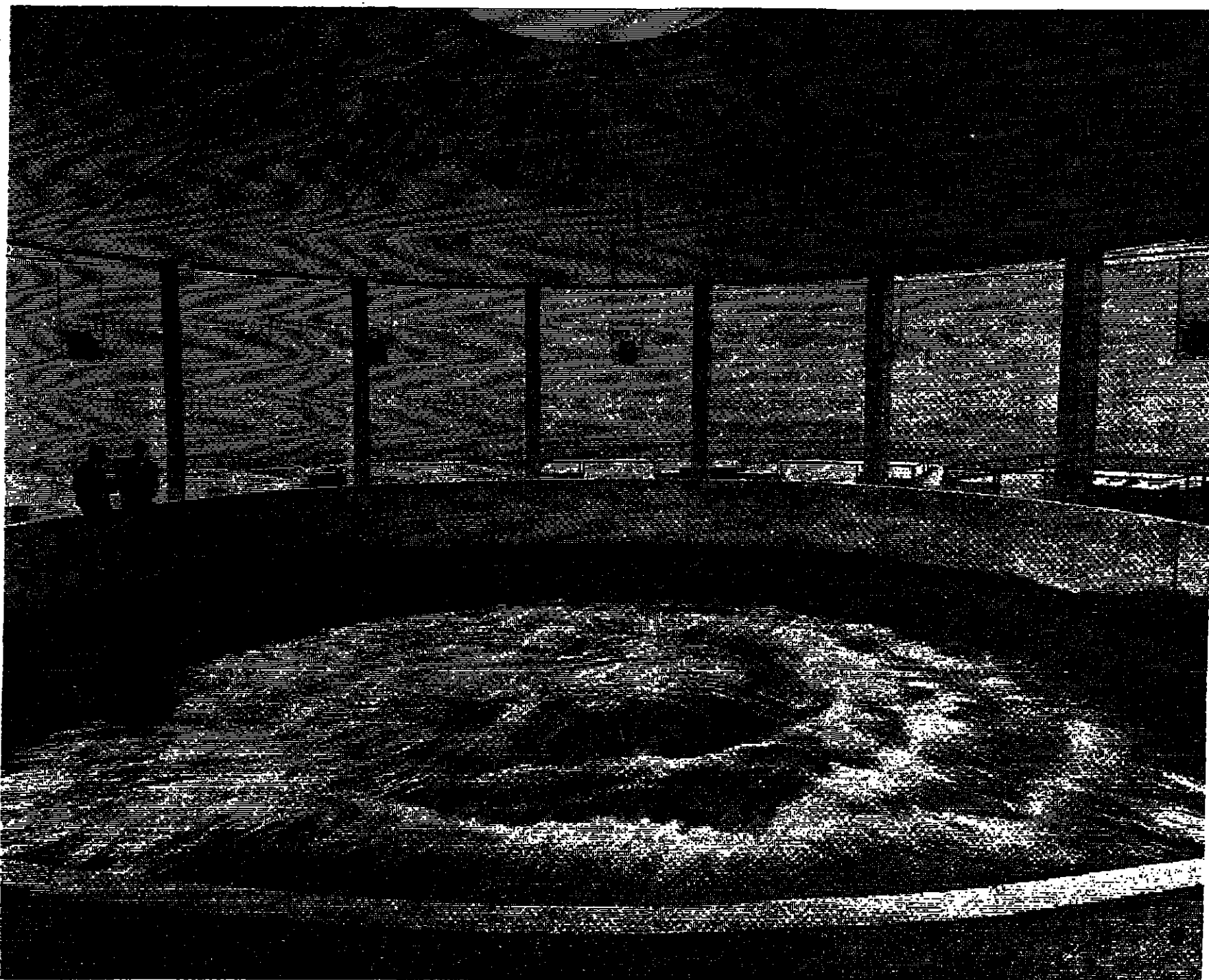
BBC ozone generators were chosen for the new San Fernando Valley treatment plant after a severe evaluation of such factors as ozone concentration, output, efficiency, space requirements, maintenance needs, and price.

The plant's five ozone generators incorporate Brown Boveri electronic control equipment and produce an impressively high ozone concentration of 6%, or 88 g/m³. With pure oxygen as the feedstock, the combined output is 185 kg of ozone per hour.

With the help of Brown Boveri technology the new facility will treat more than 100,000 m³ of surface water per hour. To produce drinking water for the people of Los Angeles which is clear, clean and good.

As well as supplying highly specialized components and control systems to help meet such vital needs as drinking water and effluent treatment, Brown Boveri play a major role in providing the world with facilities for generating, distributing and utilizing electricity. Whether as main contractor, as head of a consortium, consortium member or supplier of equipment, Brown Boveri are there. Accepting the challenge of the different, the complex and the new—every day and everywhere. And with their worldwide resources committed to the attainment of technical excellence in joint enterprise with others, Brown Boveri know how.

Illustration: Spring basin in the Sipplinger Berg waterworks, Lake Constance. BBC ozone generators are used here in treating water from the lake to make it drinkable.



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مكتزا من الأصل

Atkinson goes to Amsterdam and captures the most wanted player

Ron Atkinson's enterprise and powers of persuasion have finally succeeded in making football's most wanted player, the Dane Jesper Olsen, a Manchester United player. The United manager spent two days in Amsterdam convincing Olsen that his future lay at Old Trafford, despite a better offer from Tottenham.

The personal touch must have made its mark on the 22-year-old international and Atkinson was able to end the speculation when he announced that Olsen had agreed to join the FA Cup holders. The deal will cost United £700,000, £500,000 to Olsen's Dutch club, Ajax, and £200,000 to the player to sign a three year contract.

The man who aroused the attention of leading clubs with a brilliant individual goal for Denmark against England in the European Championship match in Copenhagen last year is under contract to Ajax until the end of July. But Atkinson expects Olsen to be established at Old Trafford by the beginning of next season.

Atkinson said "Olsen has told me he has made up his mind to join us. I feel certain there will be no snags, but experience teaches you that nothing is certain until pen is put to paper. If he wanted to make a lot of money, he would have gone elsewhere because other clubs made him much bigger cash inducements."

In addition to the Spurs financial bait, Fiorentina dangled a mighty cash incentive for Olsen to continue his career in the Italian League.

Atkinson added "I see him as a very versatile player who can operate in many positions. He has lots of flair and is very quick. The fee by today's standards, is not exorbitant. United's need for that type of player was heightened last month by the premature retirement of the England winger, Steve Coppell, with persistent knee trouble."

"Olsen said 'the decision was a difficult one, but I have always followed United and I think they are the greatest club in England. I like the way they play and they have tremendous support. All the stories have been heard about United have been good and I'm looking forward to playing with their many famous players. I have met and played against Bryan Robson in England matches but apart from him, United have a lot of other good players as well.'"

AMSTERDAM. - Ajax said yesterday that they had no information from Jesper Olsen on his reported transfer deal with Manchester United (Reuters reports) An Ajax official said Olsen had promised to reply this week to the club's offer for a new contract which would have kept him in Amsterdam for another two or three years.

"Olsen has not told us his decision yet so we don't know if he is staying with us or leaving," the official said. Another Ajax official said he thought it "almost certain" that Olsen would remain with the club. The Danish winger had to stay said he would have liked to play with Ajax for another couple of years.



Olsen: Undaunted by Simonsen experience.

Keeping fingers crossed at Derby

Derby County yesterday were still hoping to receive assistance from the county council and city council within the next 48 hours to help them in their financial crisis, Stuart Webb, a club director and chief executive said. "We are still optimistic, but something may come out of these negotiations. The club will survive, but we do need help."

Webb said that with a "united" board and gates of between 15,000 and 16,000, the club had got the ingredients for survival. "This gives us the confidence that we will have a chance to keep the club alive. I am optimistic that the councils will help because Derby are part of the social fabric of the county."

It is understood that Derby are seeking £10,000 guarantee from the city council and a £300,000 guarantee from the county council.

The policy committee of the county council did not even discuss the question at their meeting on Tuesday. David Bookbinder, leader of the council, explained that they could not help the club because government penalties would triple the cost of any cash committed by them.

At Kyrn Broadhurst, the Birmingham City captain and midfielder, has suffered another setback in his recovery from an ankle injury received six weeks ago.

Door opened for Moseley

Graham Moseley, who played in goal for Brighton in the FA Cup final last season, has been granted a free transfer. Moseley, aged 29, who appeared in both final and replay against Manchester United, has played 160 first team games since signing from Derby six years ago.

But he has played only one senior game this term, and his chances of a permanent recall have been minimized by the signing of the former Manchester City and England goalkeeper, Joe Corrigan.

Yesterday's results

UEFA CUP: Third round, first leg: Rapidist Nis 0, Haiduk Sofia 2. FOOTBALL: CONFERENCES: Bristol Rovers 2, Charlton 0; Luton 0, Chelsea 1; Millwall 0, Queens Park Rangers 1. MIDWINTER LEAGUE: Peterborough 2, Bournemouth 3.

RUGBY UNION: CLUB MATCHES: Cambridge University 20, Mickey House-Bodley's XV 38; postscript: Gloucester v Exeter University. SCOTLAND: DUNDEE CITY 20, Glasgow 4. SCOTLAND: St. Andrews 3, Stirling 6. SCHOOLS MATCH: St. David's, Llandudno 44, Haverhill 10.

HOCKEY: LONDON LEAGUE: Slough 2, Oxford University 1.

Tottenham hit by late goal from Bayern



Archibald: missed chance

From Stuart Jones Football Correspondent Munich

Bayern Munich 1 Tottenham Hotspur 0

On a freezing night in the Olympic stadium here, Tottenham Hotspur lost their UEFA cup third round first leg when Michael Rummenigge scored with six minutes left. The Scots from Aberdeen had exposed the flaws in Hamburg's defence the previous evening and there were notable similarities several hundred miles to the south in West Germany. Within half a dozen minutes, Huddle, with a customarily effortless flick, showed the fallibility of Bayern, fellow joint leaders in the Bundesliga by putting Archibald in alone against the goalkeeper.

Archibald was to be shown another opening by Augenthaler, as nonchalant a sweeper as Hieronymus has been for Hamburg. But Archibald, whose aim has recently been so deadly, stabbed his first effort into the side-netting and allowed Pfaff to throw a protective blanket over his second.

With the temperature sinking to 10 degrees below zero and with a thin layer of snow covering the athletics track, the athletics track, the Bayern players were in need of some early comfort. Instead they left themselves open to the runs of the Rummenigge brothers, especially Karl-Heinz, the elder and more famous of the two. After 20 minutes Augenthaler invited him to visit the by-line.

Howarth the new captain at The Oval

Geoff Howarth, who led the New Zealanders on the tour of England last summer, is taking over the captaincy of Surrey next season. This will enable Roger Knight, who has rejoined the county from Sussex in 1978, to concentrate more on his duties at Cranleigh School, where he has taken on the added responsibilities of housemaster.

In making the announcement, Surrey said that they had decided it was time to make a change. Knight has agreed to accept their decision and would continue playing for a further season during which he has a benefit.

Surrey have had their moments of success under Knight, notably in winning the Natwest trophy in 1982, but they had a poor season in 1983. Sylvester Clarke, the Barbados and Surrey fast bowler, will be paid £175 for every ticket he takes for Transvaal. The South African inter-provincial competition during the next three seasons, according to a sponsorship deal he signed yesterday.

Clarke is now playing in South Africa with Lawrence Rowe's "rebel" West Indian XI and will join the Transvaal side in February when the winter ends. He has already taken 11 wickets in six matches for Transvaal, worth £3,400.

More cricket, page 27

Hockey: The holders, Whitechapel, will be at home to Bridgend in the second round of the Welsh Cup on December 4. Penarth, last year's beaten finalists who are currently languishing at the foot of the Premier Division of the South Wales League, face a difficult game trip to Aberystwyth while Cardiff are at home to the giant-killers, Chepstow, who beat Llanstyn in the first round.

The two leading clubs in the North Wales League, Mousont and Pilkington are drawn together.

Draw for the second round on December 4: Mousont v Pilkington; Whitechapel v RAF Valley; Northall Hall v University College, Bangor v Newtown; Whitechapel v Bridgend; University College Swansea v Llandaff City; Aberystwyth v Penarth; Swansea v Polytechnic of Wales; Cardiff v Chepstow.

REAL TENNIS

50th win in a row for Ronaldson

By William Stephens

Christopher Ronaldson, the 33-year-old world champion, recorded his fiftieth consecutive victory in championship singles matches since January, 1981, when he defeated Kevin Sheldon, the professional at Leamington, 6-5, 6-5, 6-5 in the quarter-final of the British Open singles championship, sponsored by Gorton Wimpey, at Queen's Club yesterday.

Both players, being tall, and able to move behind cross court shots to return the ball down the line under the winning gallery in order to deceive an opponent waiting by the tannour, the match was an exhibition of craft and guile. Ronaldson, professional at Hampton Court, is expert at winning in tight corners, and his coolness when Sheldon was 5-4 up in both second and third sets (with two set points in the third) was remarkable; he was consistently accurate in his strokes on the grille.

Sheldon lost the match by removing his racket at the last minute from a ball he judged would not bounce into the deuces.

Colin Lumley, former professional in Melbourne and playing the British championships to miss the level of his game, eliminated Mick Dean, 6-1, 6-4, 6-1.

Yesterday, tennis elbow forced him to play a soft game, which caused his opponent to overhit in the second set, but then Lumley began once again to lean on the ball and dispatch it with severity.

Lachlan Deuchar, the second seed, fell victim to his own economy of weakness in concentration and made six service faults in eight attempts at the boomerang serve, while John Ward tied him down with precise floor play in the third set, but Deuchar steadied himself to win 6-1, 6-0, 3-6, 6-4.

BRITISH OPEN: Singles: Second round: J Ward to M Graden 6-4, 6-4, 6-2; Deuchar to C Ronaldson 6-4, 6-4, 6-2; K Sheldon (Leamington) 6-5, 6-5, 6-5; C Lumley (Colwyn) to M Dean 6-1, 6-4, 6-1; D Johnson to B Dean 6-1, 6-0, 6-4, 6-1; J Deuchar (Hampton Court) to J Ward 6-1, 6-0, 3-6, 6-4.

Pay up and play the game

The Minister for sport, Neil MacFarlane, made it clear yesterday that the Government has no intention of taking sport out of the taxation system. In a speech to the annual conference of the Central Council of Physical Recreation in Bournemouth, Mr MacFarlane said that such a move "would be to invite other similar claims, notably from the arts and from branches of industry."

"Some parts of the sporting world are very wealthy - not just the professional sectors. We must also look on the other side of the balance sheet. Sport benefits substantially from the public funds arising out of taxation. The spending by local authorities, the Sports Council and other public departments and agencies is very high.

Mr MacFarlane also outlined the Government's three-point plan for achieving the maximum use of existing sports facilities. He hopes that industry, schools and other bodies such as hospitals and the civil service will open up their facilities more.

Charlton supporters plan own company

Charlton Athletic supporters have plans to form their own company and invest in the football club.

Their chairman, Jack Lindsell, told a meeting of supporters last night: "In the event of the club being saved there is possibility that we will form a company and issue shares at £10 each in an effort to raise up to £100,000 to enable us to buy an equity interest in the club."

It was also announced that the recent drive for new members was an "enormous success". In the past 16 days it has risen from 259 to 830 and the total funds now stand at £3,329, the best for five years.

Committee chairman Clive Franklin appealed to both parties in Charlton's long drawn-out financial wrangle to make the ground and club available "at reasonable prices".

"Anyone buying the club should pay only a shilling if he is also expected to take on the debts," said Franklin. "Just as Michael Gluckstein should sell the ground at a reasonable price so should Mark Hulver and Richard Collins make the club available at a sensible price."

Liverpool defied by Fulham

Liverpool, the holders of the Milk Cup, still cannot shake off the second division side, Fulham. They must return to Craven Cottage next Tuesday for a second replay of their third round tie, after a red-hot Fulham back pass cost them victory at Anfield on Tuesday night.

Daglish had given Liverpool the lead, but with four minutes to go his careless pass prompted Grobbelaar to bring down Davies and Lock scored from the spot. Fulham held on in extra time and won the toss for the replay venue. "They deserved to win the toss because of the way they played," said the Liverpool manager, Joe Fagan.

The winners will meet Birmingham City at Notts County, who also drew their replay and play again in St Andrews on Tuesday, when supporters will hope for something better than Tuesday night's drab goalless game.

Berchinn earned Norwich a visit to their neighbours, Ipswich by scoring twice at Sunderland. He struck after 28 and 65 minutes, with West pulling a goal back.

Stoke's sound defence again served them well at Huddersfield, where goals from Bould and Maguire clinched a home match against unbeaten Sheffield Wednesday.

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Results and scorers from Tuesday

European Super Cup First leg HAMBURG (1) 0 ABERDEEN (0) 0

Milk Cup Third round replays Huddersfield (0) 0 Stoke City (1) 2

Winners at home to Sheffield Wednesday LIVERPOOL (0) 1 Fulham (0) 1

Winners away to Tottenham Hotspur BIRMINGHAM CITY (0) 0 Notts County (0) 0

Winners at home to Fulham or Liverpool SUNDERLAND (0) 1 Norwich (0) 2

Winners away to Ipswich FA Cup First Round replays BARNET (0) 1 Northwich (0) 0

Winners at home to Blackpool BOLTON W (1) 4 Tranmere R (0) 1

Winners away to Blackpool Bolton W (1) 4 Tranmere R (0) 1

Winners at home to Wimbledon BRISTOL R (2) 3 Barnet (0) 1

Winners at home to Corinthian-Casuals or Bristol City ENFIELD (0) 2 Wealdstone (1) 2

Winners away to 90 mins 2-0 winners away to Newport City (1) 3 Poole Town (0) 1

Winners away to 90 mins 2-0 winners away to Plymouth (0) 2 Southend U (0) 0

Winners at home to Barking WYCOMBE (0) 1 Chelmsford (1) 2

Winners away to Gillingham YORK CITY (1) 2 Macclesfield (0) 0

Winners at home to Rochdale CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Derby 2, West Bromwich Albion 1; Sheffield Wednesday 1, Barnet 0; Charlton 1, Burnley 1; Gillingham 1, Middlesbrough 3.

Second division SWANSEA (1) 1 Chelsea (0) 3

Leading positions

Sheffield W 15 11 4 0 29 11 37

Man City 15 10 1 1 34 18 38

Newcastle 15 10 2 3 31 27 33

Huddersfield 15 7 4 4 28 18 26

Charlton 15 6 8 4 20 22 24

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION: St Mirren 4, Dundee United 0

STRATHMORE PREMIER DIVISION: Barking 2, Dulwich Hamlet 3; Bromley 0, Worthing 3; Carlisle 3, Bognor Regis 1; Weymouth 3, Bishop's Cleeve 0; Sutton United 4, Tooting and Mitcham 1; Wokingham 2, Hitchin 0; Potters Bar 0, Boreham Wood 0; Chesham 1; Epsom and Ewell 2, Woking 1; Kingstonian 2, Chesham 1; Watlington and Hemmington 1; Metropolitan Police 7; Windsor and Eton 1; Farnborough 0; Second division: Finchley 1, Grays 0; Hornsea 1; Leyton Orient 1; Harington 1; Tring 1; Rainham 3; Eastbourne United 0; St Albans 1; Leamington 2.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Premier division: Bedfordshire 0, Gloucester 0

LESTER CUP: First division: 2, Gloucester 5 (see score after 90 mins 2-5)

RUGBY CLUB MATCHES: Oval 23, Heltet 3

CORNWALL MERT TABLE: Launceston 26, Penryn 10

UK Professional Tournament (Bridle Hall, Preston)

ASDA CUP: Quarter final: Sunderland v Warrington

TODAY'S FIXTURES

7.30 unless stated FOOTBALL: CONFERENCES: Brighton v Reading (1), Fulham v Norwich (2), FA COUNTRY YOUTH CUP: Second round: Sarney v Kent (at Leamington), Leyton Orient v Harington. MIDWINTER LEAGUE: Second round: Enfield v Hillingdon.

RUGBY UNION: TOUR MATCHES: New Zealand v American (at Abbey FC).

UK Professional Tournament (Bridle Hall, Preston)

ASDA CUP: Quarter final: Sunderland v Warrington

Giant in the slalom: Fabienne Serrat, of France, on her way to victory in the first event of the world series at Bormio, in the Italian Alps.

New assignments for two famous sportsmen

Sebastian Coe, already set for what he regards as the toughest challenge of his athletic career, accepted a second important assignment yesterday when he was welcomed as one of the two latest recruits to the Sports Council.

Coe, the world 800 metres and one mile record holder, and Steve Coppell, the England and Manchester United footballer whose career was cut short by injury, bring the council's membership to 24.

In London yesterday Coe said: "To be asked to contribute to anything at this level of sport is quite awe inspiring. It is indeed a big challenge. He added that the new appointment would work in well with his membership of the International Olympic Congress Athletics Commission.

The two men have been appointed by Neil MacFarlane, the Minister of Sport, who said that although Coe was in for a busy time with the council, his priority would be winning honours for Britain in the Olympic Games.

Coe has now been declared "healthy, if not fit" by his doctor after suffering an illness which prevented him challenging for a title in the first world championships.

"The doctor is very happy with me, but there is a long way to go before I am back to full athletic fitness," he said. "But I would not begin working my way back unless there was a good chance that I could make it."

"It is the biggest challenge I have faced as an athlete - and there is no point in pulling any punches. I hope to run well next season, but there is a hell of a lot of work to do."

"In all, I have had one and a half years of problems, but you have to take the rough with the smooth, although I have had a little too much of the rough lately. I have begun my conditioning work, mainly in the gymnasium, and the serious training may not come until after Christmas."

Mr MacFarlane said that Coe and Coppell were "household names with world-wide reputations in their sport" and their expertise would be of great help to the council.

He had always been his desire, he said, to appoint people who had not forgotten their sport and had a determination to make a strong contribution to an organization rather than 'just collecting committees'. He felt the council now had a strong representation in all directions. Apart from the chairman, all appointments are unpaid and last for a maximum term of three years.

Coppell, a BA graduate in economics at Liverpool University, retired as chairman of the Professional Footballers Association at the end of the year and hopes to become a club manager. "I could not be more delighted," he said.

Salazar for Japan

Tokyo (Reuters) - Alberto Salazar, the American holder of the world's fastest time for a marathon, will make his first appearance in a marathon since he was beaten into fifth place in Rotterdam in April, when he runs in the Fukuoka event on December 4.

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Johnson on course for last eight

Joe Johnson was yesterday to add David Taylor, the ninth seed, to his season's list of snooker giant-kills, in the United Kingdom professional championship, sponsored by Coral, at Preston. Johnson, who underlined his potential by reaching the final of the professional players' tournament in October and beat John Virgo, the No. 8 seed, in the first round at Preston, led 5-3 against Taylor after the first session of an enthralling second round match which finishes today.

If Johnson wins, he will make his first appearance in a major television event in a snooker tournament. He took a 3-0 lead, including a break of 53 in the third frame, but let Taylor off the hook in the fourth when he missed the pink with the scores level. Taylor, gratefully sank pink and black to make it 3-1. Johnson scraped home 63-61 in the fifth frame and added a break of 80 in the sixth to take a 5-1 lead. Taylor then took the last two frames of the session to give himself a fighting chance today.

Taylor said: "If you are a little under par, Joe snookers you and I am the luckiest man alive to be only 5-3 down. At least there is a chance of a match now."

John Spencer, three times former world champion, was level at 4-4 against Tony Meo in their second round match.


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Neil MacFarlane, Minister of Sport, flanked by the latest members of the Sports Council: Sebastian Coe and Steve Coppell. Photograph: Chris Harris

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent



Cardus: scored four tries

The only other Devon chance sees the return of the former England colt, Terry Chapman (Plymouth Albion), to lock after a shoulder injury to Andy Hoggood (Exeter).

Peter Kolokotroni (Birkenhead) is recalled to Cheshire's wing for their second division relegation play-off against North Midlands at Stourbridge. Laurence Smith (Tabularia) must pass a fitness test on his return from playing in the second division relegation play-off, for Hertfordshire against Warwickshire at Croxley Green.

Somerset sailed days, page 27

have anabolic steroids, the use of which have been prohibited. However there are no reliable tests for detecting somatropin, which unlike the steroids, secrete from the

Wincanton selections

21 PTS	£143.84	Above dividends to units of 10p
20½ PTS.....	£46.40	Expenses and Commission
treble chance dividends to units of 2.3p		5th November 1963 - 32 1/2

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Wolverhampton Polytechnic, Faculty of Education, Castle View, DUDLEY DY1 3HF. Tel: 0384 59741.

Please send further details and an application form for a one-year course to train as a lecturer. If possible, a stamped addressed reply envelope.

My subject specialism is:

NAME:

ADDRESS:

REF T



Ceremonial Assistant

A vacancy will occur for a Ceremonial Assistant in the Remembrancer's Office of the Corporation of London on 29th February, 1984. The duties of the office involve the detailed organisation of all ceremonial functions at which the Corporation is host at Guildhall and the Mansion House, including State and other banquets, and in particular the carrying out of the arrangements necessary for the Lord Mayor's Procession and Banquet each year.

Candidates should have a flair for ceremonial and a knowledge of protocol. They should be able to deal at a senior level with the Offices of State and Diplomatic Missions. The ability to work under pressure and sustain meticulous attention to detail is also a necessary attribute.

The salary of the appointment is £9,660 per annum, rising by four annual increments to a maximum of £10,761 per annum. There is, in addition, a London Weighting allowance of £1,377 per annum.

Application forms can be obtained from the Remembrancer, Corporation of London, P.O. Box 270, Guildhall, London, EC2P 2EJ (Telephone: 01-606 3030 Ext. 2202). Completed applications should be returned by no later than 18th December 1983.

PERSONNEL MANAGER

We are a charity concerned with the employment and education of the blind. We operate a sheltered workshop, employing and training a school for visually handicapped children.

The jobholder will be responsible to the Secretary-General for the full range of personnel and employment matters, including recruitment, wage and salary administration and industrial relations. He will be responsible for carrying out and will liaise with the Works Manager on safety. An important feature of the job is the welfare role in respect of blind employees.

Applicants should have at least 5 years' general personnel experience, preferably gained in a manufacturing environment.

Preferred age range 30-40. Please send C.V. with details of current salary or ring for an application form to: Personnel Manager, The Royal London Society for the Blind, 105 Salisbury Road, London NW6 6RH. Tel: 01-624 8844.

AFRICA CENTRE Director General

The Council of Management of the Africa Centre seeks a successor to the present Director General. Suitable candidates will already know something of the work of the centre—a unique educational, cultural and social centre founded in 1962. The post calls for a rare combination of skills and experience to manage a small, friendly, "club-like" institution with its own catering and bar facilities, to direct a balanced programme of cultural and topical films, serving as a bridge between people from Africa who are in Britain and British people with a special interest in Africa; to work with and for the Multi-National Commission which controls the centre; to raise funds for its operations; and generally to develop the Centre's work, influence and responsiveness to contemporary Africa.

Salary £11,000 p.a. Further particulars from Director General, letters of application with C.V. and naming two referees by January 3, 1984, to: APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE, AFRICA CENTRE, 38 KINGS STREET, LONDON, WC2E 8JY.

DEPUTY ENGINEER (Systems Operation)

Applications are invited for the post of Deputy Engineer (Systems Operation) in the Estates and Buildings Division of the Registrar's Department. Applicants must be Chartered Electrical Engineers and have experience in the management of building services for large complexes. Experience in the operation of a computerised energy management system will be an asset. Salary will not be less than £11,160 p.a. Further particulars are available from the Registrar, University of Salford, Salford M6 6PU, to whom letters of application together with the names of two referees should be returned by 15 December 1983, quoting ref. number A/706. Closing date: 01-1984. Tel: 0161 295 5443. Ext: 450.

LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

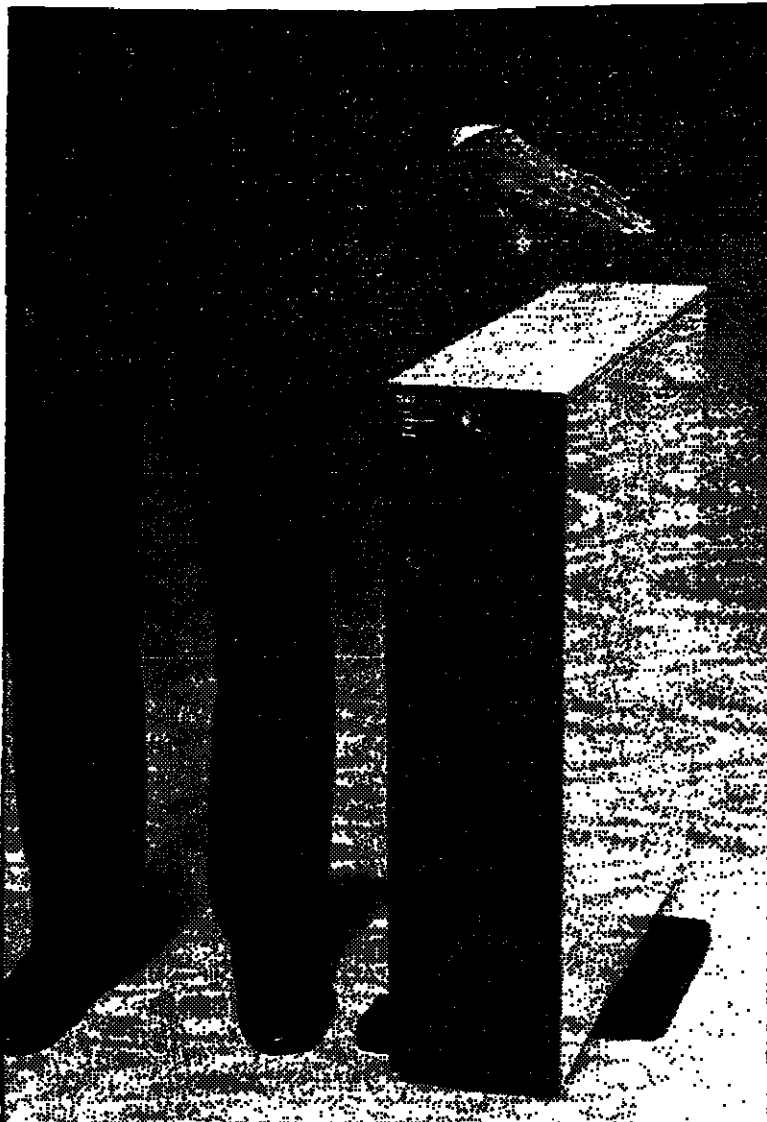
DIRECTOR OF WORKS

The University wishes to appoint a successor to the present Director of Works, who is due to retire on 30th September 1984. This is a key management post in the University and will carry a consequential salary to be negotiated with the University. The Director of Works is responsible for the planning and management of the University campus and for all aspects of capital and revenue expenditure relating to University property. Applicants should have relevant experience at a senior level and should possess a professional qualification appropriate to the duties of the post. Further particulars and application forms from the Registrar, Closing date: 30th January 1984. Loughborough University.

ALONE IN LONDON SERVICE DIRECTOR

To assume leadership of this rapidly expanding project providing a range of services, support and motivation for the young, single and homeless. Wide experience of social work, administration and fund raising for voluntary projects together with the ability to recruit and motivate are the main requirements. Salary £10,000 p.a. For Job Description and Application Form, please contact: The Director, Telephone: 01-387 9194. Closing date for applications: 31st December.

Sales and Marketing Appointments



Our new Product Marketing Management will have the ultimate satisfaction of bringing up a whole new generation.

Walk into the offices of NCR these days and you will sense a new excitement. Listen carefully and you'll hear animated conversation on the theme of company growth. This is no empty rhetoric.

Next year NCR will become the first company in the Data Processing industry to celebrate its centenary. Through all those years we've been growing by helping thousands of other companies do exactly the same.

Since the explosion of new technology we've grown even more, to become one of the world's largest companies in the development, manufacture and marketing of powerful business information systems.

Our commitment to the future is best expressed by a massive, on-going programme of new product development. Products which will help us to fully exploit both existing and new markets.

In just 18 months we have already developed from concept to manufacture the Tower 1632 (as illustrated) and the Decision Mate V—micro and personal systems with the potential to dominate their markets for a long time to come.

Standing just 29 inches high, the Tower is a powerful 16-bit processor based on an enhanced UNIX operating system with industry standard components and communications interfaces.

The Decision Mate V, our first venture into the personal computer market, also offers many industry standard features plus DECISION NET, a local area network for linking computers of varying makes into a communications resource-sharing network.

To quote our UK Chairman: "NCR is poised to enter a new period of significant growth. Earlier this year we released significant new generation products which are acknowledged industry leaders—the Decision Mate V, the Tower 1632 and the 9300 32-bit mainframe—and there are many more to come next year. It is vital that we maximise their full market potential. We are looking for high volume markets... successful implementation of our new strategies demands that we increase the strength and effectiveness of our product marketing capability."

Which is precisely why we're now looking for the professionals who are going to manage our new Product Marketing Division. People with an intimate knowledge of the personal computer, micro and office automation markets who have the imagination to formulate the strategies that will sell new products in large quantities. These are heavyweight marketing opportunities which call for energy, ambition and a successful track record in systems sales or marketing and experience at management level. There will be liaison with manufacturing plants in Japan, USA and Germany involving some travel to these areas.

Those who join us in these positions will not simply be coming here to 'do a job'. We will be looking upon them as the senior management of the future and rewarding them accordingly. Top level salaries and a company car will be offered, enhanced by a bonus incentive scheme. A non-contributory pension scheme is also part of the attractive package.

If you want to keep in step with the next generation, please write with full details of your career, quoting ref. T/29, to: Ann Winter, Personnel Manager, NCR Limited, 206 Marylebone Road, London NW1 6LY.

Marketing Support. The establishment of our new Product Marketing Division has also created superb opportunities for young marketeers to form back-up teams in support of the new management. The rewards offered will depend on age and experience, whilst the experience to be gained will be invaluable.

NCR
Complete computer systems



MARKETING MANAGER

£12,000 + Car

ICC are the leading providers of company financial information to industry and commerce. Following extensive computer development ICC can now offer database facilities on-line to their clients.

A professional marketing manager is needed to promote and market these services.

We envisage the successful candidate to be a self motivated ambitious individual, aged under 35, either with qualifications in marketing and business studies or suitable previous experience.

Apply in confidence giving full details to:
Miss Janet Hopson,
ICC Information Group,
81 City Road,
London, E.C.1

SALE ORIENTED LINGUIST

To receive a very special incentive package to help develop your sales potential. Excellent £10,300 p.a. Degree. Good sales record. French, German & German/Dutch.

492 1624

Marketing Director - Robotics

Evershed Robotics Limited are expanding their activities and wish to appoint a Marketing Director. The Company markets the Toshiba range of high quality robots in the UK and in Europe and considerable expansion is foreseen following the introduction of exciting new models in the New Year.

In addition to a positive track record marketing capital equipment, the successful applicant will have extensive experience in production engineering technology and will make a particular contribution to the essential engineering work associated with robot installations. Experience in robotics/special purpose machinery and a second language would be a positive advantage.

This senior position offers a five figure salary commensurate with the position, company car and all normal benefits.

Applications in confidence to the Managing Director,
EVERSHED ROBOTICS,
Bridge Road, Chertsey, Surrey KT16 8LJ
Tel: (09328) 61181

Market Development

A Senior Market Development Officer is required by the Zinc Development Association to work primarily on market development of Galvalume products.

The successful applicant will probably have a degree in engineering, metallurgy or chemistry; be between 25 and 35; have experience in the corrosion, protection industry; be able to write fluent reports; manage a professional committee and travel in the British Isles to influence specialists in client contact discussions. Ability in foreign languages may be an advantage. The successful applicant will be based in London and will probably receive a salary between £8,000 and £11,000 p.a.

Please apply in writing initially to:
Mr F. C. Porter
ZINC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
34, Berkeley Square, London, W1X 6AJ

CREDIT CONTROL MANAGER Solicitors

McKenna & Co are looking for a Credit Control Manager with experience of working in a large professional office and of using computers.

The right applicant will have initiative and tact in order to undertake this demanding job and will be supported by an assistant.

Please write to: E. D. WHITEHILL, GENERAL MANAGER, MCKENNA & CO, INVERESK HOUSE, 1 ALDWYCH, LONDON WC2R 0HF

McKenna & Co
INVERESK HOUSE, 1 ALDWYCH LONDON WC2R 0HF

Banking and Accountancy Appointments

Bookkeeper/Accountant

International Petroleum Gas Trading Company seeks competent bookkeeper/accountant for its London office based in Mayfair. Applicants should be conversant with general bookkeeping, VAT, credit control and documentary credits. Familiarity with a DATA PROCESSOR would also be an advantage. £9,000 p.a. 4 weeks holiday. Part time employment would also be considered.

Please write to: 01-409 3486

THIRD WORLD VACANCIES

West Bank: Computer Programmer, Occupational Therapist, Social Researcher, Kindergarten Teacher.
Beirut: Anatomical Technician, Veterinary Assistant.
Bahrain: Tropical Agonomist, Documentalist.
Cape Verde: Physiotherapist.
Upper Volta: Agriculturalist.
Mali: Public Health/Statistics Workers, Social Researcher.

Serve for two years minimum on basic salary with all costs covered. Language etc. etc. Details from UNAMS, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A, quoting REF/T and specific vacancy.

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

Appear Each Thursday
For Further Information
Telephone Stanley Mark
on
01-837 1234 Ext 7553

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE FINANCIAL BOARD OFFICE

Administrative Assistant to take charge of the University's internal audit section. Candidates should have experience of computer applications to financial accounting and will be expected to contribute to the further development and improvement of the University's accounting procedures. Preference would be given to a professionally qualified person. Scale of standards: £8,575 to £11,615. Applications with the names of 2 referees should be sent under confidential cover to: The Treasurer, at the Financial Board, The Old Schools, Cambridge, CB2 1RQ to reach him not later than 14 Dec. 1983.

University of Birmingham STAFF OFFICER

The University seeks applications for the post of Staff Officer to assume charge of the personnel function including industrial relations. Candidates should have proven experience in personnel administration and in trade union negotiation. Salary in the region of £17,500 p.a. Superannuation. Further particulars and application forms available from the Senior Assistant Secretary, University of Birmingham, P.O. Box 363, Birmingham B15 2TT. Closing date: 5th December 1983.

NUTRITION LECTURER

The Floor Advisory Bureau requires a Lecturer in the departments of Home Economics and Nutrition Education. Applicants should have a degree in Nutrition or Food Science, a diploma in Dietetics or a teaching certificate or equivalent qualifications. This department provides a lecturing service throughout the United Kingdom on practical nutrition to a wide range of audiences. Further details from Miss G. Whitlock, Head of Department, Home Economics and Nutrition Education, The Floor Advisory Bureau Ltd, 21 Arliffing St, London SW1A 1BN.

WARDEN

WIMBORNE HALL, COMMUNITY CENTRE which is part of Dorset County Trust. It is the focal point of a large number of groups covering a host of activities, and supervising national and international relations. The Warden must have a strong capacity for energy as well as leadership and management skills. The annual salary will be £12,000. A 3-bedded flat is available at the hall, but there is no separate requirement for this. Further information from: DORSET COUNTY TRUST, WIMBORNE HALL, WIMBORNE, DORSET DT9 8AA. Tel: 01929 61421. Closing date: December 7.

URGENT

Secretarial/Assistant for Co. WI, 55pence. A female, age 20-22. Temp/Permanent. Sec/PA to Marketing Director, 100/80, Bessell Office, Regents Park. Temp/Permanent. Ring Jo or Anne on 629 9833. Duke Street House, 415-417 Oxford Street, London W1

KINGSWAY

SECRETARY 20+ required for Advertiser. Fleet Street area. Good English and excellent telephone manner essential. Excellent salary and benefits. £12,000 p.a. Apply in writing to: Advertiser Controller Limited, New Papers PLC, 25-27 Tudor Street, London EC4A 3DF.

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

WELLS CATHEDRAL SECRETARY

The Dean and Chapter intend to appoint for the first time a Cathedral Secretary, to be responsible for the administrative and accounting departments, with effect from September, 1984. Particulars upon application to the Dean, 31st December, 1983. Tel: 01223 75000.

THE CHAPTER CLERK.

14 Market Place, Wells, Somerset

SECRETARIAL ASSISTANT

Required for the Technical Support co-ordinator of this new expanding Japanese computer company. Applicants should have first class qualifications and be familiar with electronic typewriters and a word processing system in order to handle technical work. Ability to work on own initiative. Salary £2500 p.a. 4 weeks holiday. Applications in writing with CV to: Miss L. Russell, Fujitsu Europe Ltd, 34 Jeremy Street, London SW1Y 6NQ

SAMI EL KHAZEN

Renowned Designer based in Paris & Beirut is setting up a subsidiary practice & showroom in Monte Carlo and is looking for a Project Manager to liaise with his consultancy team a qualified Sales Person with a knowledge of classic decoration, a High Quality Visualiser with experience in perspective, willing to be associated with this business. Excellent presentation & basic knowledge of French preferred. Please send CV & documents to: Sami El Khazen, 7 Rue Bacha, Paris 75004 France.

MAYFAIR PROPERTY COMPANY

Our Director is looking for a bright and adaptable, well-groomed AUDIO SECRETARY to join our small, friendly office. This is a junior position requiring at least a year's experience. Salary negotiable up to £6,500 p.a. Telephone: See Kerslake on 488 1677.

Telephonist/Receptionist

For busy young architects in attractive new offices, Angel Islington. British Telecom Herald System Audio typing on word processor. Plenty of scope for individual initiative & flair. Salary £5,500-£6,000. Phone Laura Cumora on 226 9708.

OPERATIONS ASSISTANT

London Handling is an incoming Tour Operator. We need a fluent French speaker to assist in the Group Travel Operations department. An ability to type is essential. Telephone 01-589 2212.

AMERICAN LIVING LONDON W1

renewable job opportunity. PA with shorthand to deal with correspondence, social arrangements, etc. Full-time appointment but only very light duties. Successful candidate will receive £2,500 p.a. plus a non-stroke salary. For further details please phone 01-589 2212.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE URGENTLY REQUIRED

Confident shorthand secretary for busy and varied position in very pleasant office. £6,500. Tel 01 589 9609 (no agencies please)

LIVE IN THE ALGARVE

Excellent opportunity for general office person experienced with good skills. Send CV to: CLU BE PRLA DA OLRA, Apartado 4, 8201 Albufeira, Algarve, Portugal.

SENIOR APPOINTMENT PROPERTY

PA Secretary SW1. A senior appointment is made as PA Secretary to the Secretary of a leading professional body. Opportunity available to make a major contribution as member of a vital team. Good secretarial skills and personality required. Salary negotiable. Please apply in writing to the Secretary, Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers, at 3 Colindale Gate, London, NW9 1HT, not later than Friday 2 December.

SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATOR

for a number of years. Good experience in office administration, ability to work on own initiative. Good secretarial skills. Salary £5,500 p.a. plus 12% holiday. For further details please phone 01-589 2212.

CAMBERWELL HEALTH AUTHORITY

King's College Hospital ENT & X-RAY DEPARTMENT

SENIOR MEDICAL SECRETARY

Are you a Qualified Medical Secretary looking for a busy and responsible post? We require 2 SENIOR MEDICAL SECRETARIES with good organisational skills to work in our ENT & X-Ray departments. Both are very busy and in leading roles and would suit experienced secretaries with initiative and ability to supervise other Secretaries within the department. Good shorthand and Audio skills are essential. Salary £5,728 - £6,712 (incl. Interim). Then contact: Unit Personnel Department, King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill, London. SE5 9RS. Tel: 01-274 6222. Ext: 2408.

SLOANE RANGER TYPE P/A

20+ with fluent French, a good command of French and superb organisational skills. Salary £12,000 p.a. plus 12% holiday. For further details please phone 01-589 2212.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE, £4,000 for 20+ yr

and set with interest in commercial law. Good 30-40% potential. W.P. and 10% of leading estate agents. £12,000 p.a. plus 12% holiday. For further details please phone 01-589 2212.

IN-HOUSE PA: Someone self-motivated, with 20+ yrs. exp. in P.A. needed to promote expanding company. £12,000 p.a. plus 12% holiday. For further details please phone 01-589 2212.

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PARLIAMENTARY NOTICE

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**AUDIO
SECRETARY**

21-28 years to assist young solicitor, newly appointed to develop company and commercial department. You should have a good telephone manner and a sense of humour. Pleasant working conditions in modern offices close to Chancery Lane Tube station. Salary £7,000 pa.

For application form ring: Mrs Sylvia Hurstley on: 01-631 6387

FRENCH/SPANISH
Executive PA—\$7-8,500
Seeking a French/English/ Spanish speaking individual with fast typing skills (100WPM) and excellent organizational skills. This fast paced position is a full time position deserving the kind of competitive salary offered by this position in the European head office in Mayfair of this international firm of American Investment Bankers. As PA to the President, you will be responsible for understanding all of your undertakings will be extensive: Personal, professional, social and temporary personnel, to the President's residence, to the President's office, to the President's correspondence, plus of course, handling all of the President's affairs.

Education, Banking or Broking background is requisite, as is the ability to understand all of the undertakings in the President's life with people and their problems. Please send your resume to: 6331 1st Avenue for further details.

St Paul's Employment Agency

**SHORTHAND
SECRETARY**

Required for partner in small firm of solicitors EC1. Age 25-40. Hours 10-6. Salary £7,200. December/January start.

Tel: Denise 248 0667
(No agencies)

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Smoking 'killing' more than 100,000'

continued from page 1

prevent what has been called 'the avoidable holocaust'. Sadly, this has been far from the case.

Senior members of the college said yesterday that they would be seeking meetings with Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, and Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer to press for legislative changes.

But one of the report's contributors, Dr Charles Fletcher, emeritus professor of clinical epidemiology at London University, said: "Politicians are not in the least interested in health, except their own health. Banning cigarettes is not going to win them an election, but it will hurt their relations with manufacturers who give them a lot of funds."

The report complains that the tobacco industry spends £100m a year in advertising 10 times more than the Health Education Council's budget. The health service spent an estimated £155m in 1981 in treating smoking-related diseases.

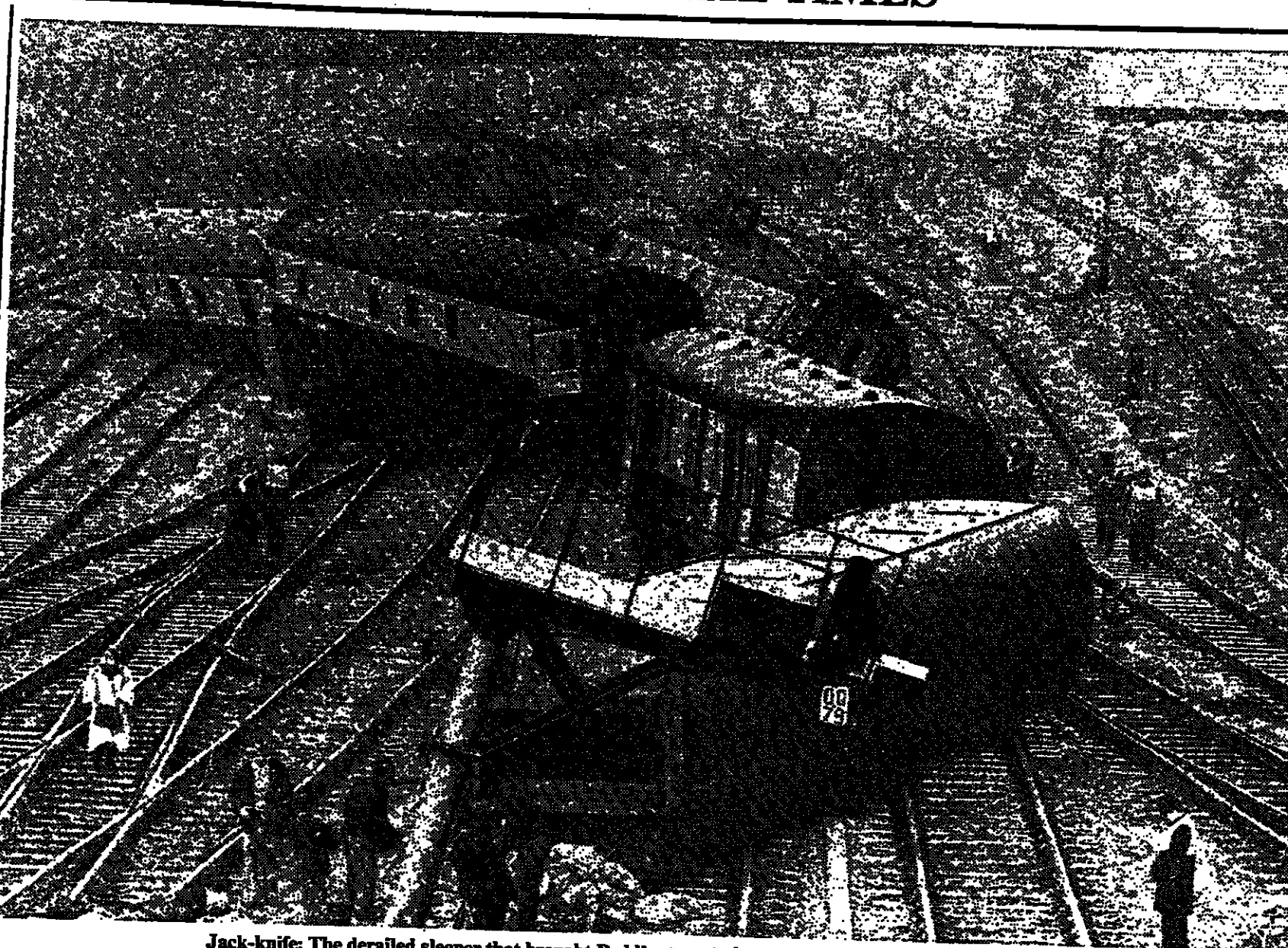
Mr John Patten the Minister for Health, said in response to yesterday's report: "I believe that within the restraint of a free society, the policies the Government has adopted are proving generally effective," he said. "Cigarette sales have declined 20 per cent in the last four years."

The Royal College of Physicians' first report, published in 1962, was the first authoritative report in Britain to link smoking with lung cancer. Its second report, in 1971, identified other diseases associated with smoking.

The 1977 report recommended education programmes discouraging children from smoking; limiting smoking within the health service; restricting smoking in public places; phasing out tobacco sales promotion; differential price rises discriminating against high tar/nicotine cigarettes; early withdrawal of such cigarettes; and a large increase in research.

Later yesterday, Mr Patten met a delegation from the Freedom of Information Society (FoI), which urged him to "defend smokers' rights".

The Tobacco Advisory Council rejected the college's recommendations for further restrictions on the industry. "The RCP ignores both the resulting long-term decline in government revenue from tobacco and the potential impact on employment for over 200,000 people," it said.



Jack-knife: The derailed sleeper that brought Paddington station to a halt (Photograph: John Voos).

Eleven coaches derailed in Paddington sleeper crash

By David Nicholson-Lord

Seventy people escaped without serious injury when an Inter-City sleeper train crashed off the rails as it approached Paddington station, London, yesterday, derailling 11 coaches and leaving a trail of damage.

Only three passengers, one of them a pregnant woman, Mrs Catherine Beaumont, aged 28, were slightly hurt in the crash, which smashed several installations and part of a platform, cut a signalling cable and left coaches strewn over a wide stretch of track.

A Department of Transport inquiry is to be held in addition to British Rail's internal investigation.

One of the first things to be investigated is the suggestion that the train may have been travelling too fast when it left the rails.

But tonight a BR spokesman at Paddington said: "I wouldn't like to speculate. There is a lot of evidence to be collated and much to be gone into. A lot of individuals have to be spoken to."

BR area manager Mr Richard Morris said: "I do not think it was caused by the frost on the rails, but it would be irresponsible to speculate at this stage."

BR said it was fortunate that no one was killed or severely injured, and praised the performance of its new "buck-eye" coupling system which kept most of the carriages linked together. With the old screw coupling, more would probably have fallen over.

The station was closed all yesterday, severely disrupting commuters' journeys, and was not likely to reopen before this morning, BR said last night.

Commuters on the Oxford and Reading lines were being advised to travel via Westbourne Park and Inter-City passengers to use Ealing Broadway. Paddington's main signalling cable was severed in the accident.

The train involved was the Riviera sleeper from Penzance which was derailed at 6.15am.

Passengers, many of whom were still in bed when the crash occurred, were helped out by station staff. The driver was lifted out of his cab but was unhurt.

Heavy duty cranes were brought in later to lift the stock but engineers feared difficulties with the locomotive because it was lying under a bridge.

Nato tries to maintain disarmament talks

Continued from page 1

"present round" as a hopeful sign.

One of the key questions now is what future there is for the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (Sart) also being held in Geneva. The next session of negotiations is planned for next Tuesday. Moscow indicated last night, however, that the Sart talks may be in danger of collapse. The situation has become "complicated" by the INF breakdown.

In his statement to the Commons Mr Luce said: "The Russians may seek to justify their interruption of the talks by the final preparations for initial Western INF deployment. But the House will recall that the West has remained at the conference table while the Soviet Union has increased its own deployments of SS20s by over 40 per cent."

Conservatives chided the Opposition for not condemning the Russian action and finally Mr Denis Healey said that the exchanges in the House showed that all MPs deplored the Soviet withdrawal. But he said the NATO decision to deploy cruise and Pershing had "done more to damage public support for the NATO alliance than any other action taken in the last 34 years."

The Soviet walkout was caused by a grave error of judgment by NATO ministers. Mrs Joan Ruddock, the leader of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament said last night and she gave warning that it could bring nuclear war closer.

Parliamentary report, page 4
Pershing in Germany and NATO assessment, page 5
Leading article, page 13

Frank Johnson in the Commons Facing up to Britain's long-range hooligans

Mr Richard Luce, the Minister of State at the Foreign Office, made a statement about the Soviet withdrawal from the Geneva talks on limiting intermediate nuclear forces.

Labour members emphasized the threat to the talks of the deployment of the American cruise and Pershing. Conservative members emphasized the threat to Western Europe of the SS20s.

It was one of those days when the issues involved were so vast - the self-confidence and expertise shown by certain members on both sides so patently bogus - that one cast around for a subject where right and wrong were as with the Second World War. For example, was stark and clear. Happily there are such issues. Thus, at question time to the Minister for Sport there was widespread unity on the threat to Western Europe posed by the British long-range weapons: the football hooligans.

Members pondered the lessons of the recent use of the weapons against Luxembourg. According to eye witnesses, very little of Luxembourg was now left. The cataclysm tended to vindicate those of us who believe that war can only be avoided by countries possessing the weapons to deter an aggressor - in effect, by a balance of terror. For could it really be doubted that Britain would have gone ahead and destroyed much of Luxembourg last week had Luxembourg possessed comparable soccer hooligans of its own?

The lessons for the world were salutary. In its hour of trial, Luxembourg simply turned out not to be a serious hooligan power. It was equipped with some hooligans. But they turned out to lack the weight, technical resources, numbers and sheer fire power of the British. In the last analysis, Luxembourg relied for its defence on conventional policemen. Over the years of the growing British threat, Luxembourg's statesmen appeared to have developed a Maginot mentality, a feeling that all they needed to do was stay in Luxembourg and they were safe from a British football crowd. For over a decade, Luxembourg police had scoffed at the idea that the British could mount a surprise thrust through the low countries. But that was precisely what happened last week - with results we all now know. This was the

background against which members met at sports questions yesterday.

Mr Colin Moynihan, the Conservative member for Lewisham East, demanded of the Minister, Mr Neil MacFarlane, that there should be "tougher sentencing by the courts." The idea that a crack British hooligan would be deterred by a Luxembourg police court was, of course, laughable.

Mr Moynihan suggested that Mr MacFarlane "draw the attention of the Sports Council to the European initiative agreed at a conference in Rotterdam last week." Faith in "European initiatives" is a characteristic of naive idealists such as Mr Moynihan. We doubted his sincerity, but next he urged Mr MacFarlane to "draw the distinction between football supporters and hooligans who have no interest in the sport," thus ignoring the problem of the thousands of Britons who have an interest in the sport and in hooliganism.

Mr MacFarlane, like Churchill wisely not relying on the League of Nations when Germany's hooligans were the problem, early knew that the Sports Council was powerless to deal with the sort of threat to European peace now posed by Britain.

Mr Michael McGuire, the Labour member for Macclesfield, urged Mr MacFarlane to "encourage people to change to the game of Rugby Union," ignoring the likelihood that Britain would then simply develop a new generation of long-range hooligans who would attack New Zealand. Mr McGuire claimed that Rugby Union was a game in which the players "lay into one another instead of the spectators laying into one another." He added that if people could be encouraged to change to watching Rugby Union, they might eventually "move to the more noble game of Rugby League."

There may well be merit in what the Hon Member says, but I think it is a route fraught with risks as far as I am concerned," he replied. "It is a matter for the governing bodies," he added, by which one assumed that he was wisely not including among these governing bodies, for these purposes, the Government.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

New books - paperback

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:

From Middle England, A Memory of the 1930s and 1940s, by Philip Oakes (Penguin, £3.95)

Martha Therses, by Edward Crankshaw (Constable, £5.95)

Reverend Writing, Miscellaneous Pieces 1585-1588, by Philip Larkin (Faber, £4.95)

The Unfinished Sherlock Holmes, by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, compiled by Richard Lancelyn Green (Penguin, £2.50)

Vindicta, Princess Royal of England and German Princess, by Daphne Bennett (Vindicta, £5.95)

The Last Writing-Tablets, by A. K. Bowman and J. D. Thomas (Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies, £15.50)

Where the Indus is Young, A Winter in Belistan, by Dervish Murphy (Century, £4.95)

Young India, by John Vain (Black Swan, £1.95)

Voyage of the Destiny, by Robert Nye (Penguin, £2.50)

The End of the World Now, by Anthony Burgess (Penguin, £2.95)

Train disruption

Paddington station in London, which was closed yesterday because of the Inter-City derailment, was not likely to reopen before this morning, BR said last night.

Commuters on the Oxford and Reading lines were being advised to travel via Westbourne Park and Inter-City passengers should use Ealing Broadway.

National Day

Zaire's National Day today marks the anniversary of the Mobutu Sese Seko in a letter on November 24-25, 1965. Formerly the Belgian Congo, Zaire became independent as the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 1960. The subsequent disorder centred on the attempted secession of Katanga province, which led to the stationing of United Nations troops.

General Mobutu, who had taken temporary power in 1960, decided on November 24, 1965, that he should again take over, and the swift army coup was endorsed by the Congolese Parliament 24 hours later. In October, 1971, the name changed to the Republic of Zaire.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Debate on motion to approve Chancellor of the Exchequer's Autumn Statement.

Lords (3): Debate on shipping industry. Motions on milk regulations.

The pound

	Bank	Sells
Australia \$	1.66	1.58
Austria Sch	29.10	27.50
Belgium Fr	84.25	80.25
Canada \$	1.88	1.81
Denmark Kr	14.12	14.12
France Fr	8.42	8.42
Germany DM	12.40	11.90
Greece Dr	4.10	4.31
Italy Lira	160.00	152.00
Japan Yen	11.75	11.15
Netherlands Gld	1.32	1.27
Portugal Esc	248.00	237.00
Spain Ptas	355.00	342.00
Sweden Kr	11.46	10.86
Switzerland Fr	202.00	192.00
USA \$	1.78	1.65
Yugoslavia Dnr	235.00	226.00
	12.12	11.55
	3.33	3.16
	1.51	1.46
	220.00	207.00

Rates for small denominated bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd.

Retail Price Index: 340.7

London: The FT Index closed down 1.3 at 724.4.

Roads

London and South-East: A405: Single lane temporary signals on North Bait to Green Bridge, Co High Road. A4088: One lane each way at Blackbird Hill and Neasden Lane. A40: New layout at Western Avenue between Horsenden Lane and Medway Parade.

Midlands: A46: Lanes closed on Warwick bypass. A6: Temporary signals at Belper, Derbyshire. A1: Lanes closed at Colsterworth.

North: A66: Temporary lights North Bait to Green Bridge, Co Durham. A1: Roadworks at Wansbeck viaduct, Morpeth bypass.

M18: Lanes closed between junctions 2 and 5.

Wales: A47: Temporary signals at Colleton Mills between Chulmleigh and Barnstaple. A5: Restrictions at Nant Francon pass between Bethesda and Betws-y-coed, Gwynedd. A48: 24hr signals at Dreifach, Dyfed, between Carmarthen and junction 49 (M4).

Scotland: A737: Lane closed on Main Road, Elderslie. A77: One lane each way on Fenwick Road, N of Eastview, Toll (A726), Giffnock, Renfrewshire. A726: One lane each way on Fenwick Road, N of Eastview, Toll (A726), Giffnock, Renfrewshire. A726: One lane each way on Fenwick Road, N of Eastview, Toll (A726), Giffnock, Renfrewshire.

The papers

The Daily Star gives the Bill to control video "nasties" its "full-hearted support", with one reservation: "The Bill doesn't specifically include pornography as one of its tests for the suitability of video tapes. Yet the degradation of sex and women is probably one of the most powerful distortions a young mind can suffer... it is no good controlling video violence and allowing hard porn to flourish."

The Daily Mirror comments: "The Russians walked out of the Geneva disarmament talks yesterday knowing that sooner or later they will walk back. It was all part of the superpower charade, the empty posturing which nowadays passes for negotiations. Instead of nations talking to nations about disarmament we have bureaucrats talking to bureaucrats."

Summits are out of diplomatic fashion. But when statecraft is reached, only presidents and prime ministers can end it. Nineteen eighty four would be a good year for leaders to start talking to each other again instead of abusing each other from long distance."

The Washington Post yesterday asked whether the recent church killings in Northern Ireland might not turn out to be a turning point. "Perhaps, finally, a growing number will join the few brave peace-makers that this troubled corner of the world and say, 'We will go no further with this madness, let us begin to learn to live together'."

Weather forecast

Troughs of low pressure will move across all areas from SW.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, Central N England, E Midlands: Dry at first, rain spreading quickly from W; dry, bright or clear intervals later; wind SE, becoming SW, moderate; max 9 to 11C (48 to 52F).

East Angles, E England: Dry at first, rain later; wind SE, light to moderate; max 9 to 11C (48 to 52F).

Central S, SW England, W Midlands, Channel Islands, Wales: Rain clearing, sunny intervals, scattered showers; wind SE, becoming SW, moderate or fresh; max 10 to 12C (50 to 54F).

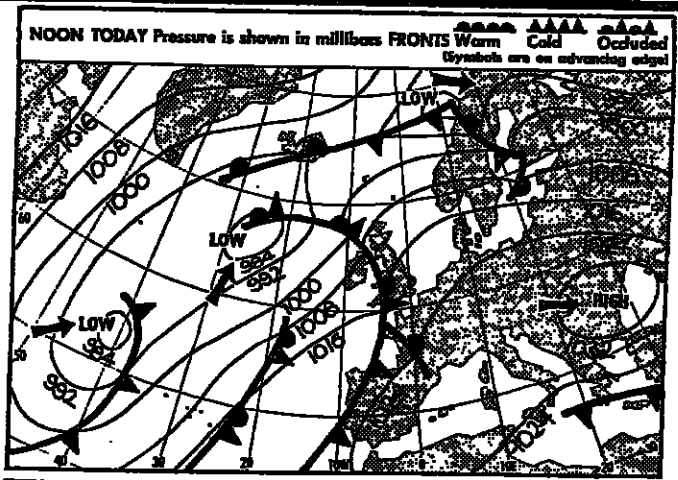
NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, N Ireland: Rain clearing, sunny intervals, showers, frequent and heavy over high ground; wind SE, becoming SW, fresh or strong; max 10 to 12C (50 to 54F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Central Highlands, NW Scotland: Dry at first, rain, heavy in places, spreading later; wind SE, becoming SW, moderate or fresh; max 7 to 9C (45 to 48F).

Orkney, Shetland: Dry, hazy sunrise at first, becoming cloudy; rain; wind SW, becoming SE, moderate; max 6 to 8C (43 to 46F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Saturday: Mild, rain at times, bright intervals, flatter winds.

SEA PRESSURES: North Sea, Straits of Dover: Wind SE, light, veering S, moderate or fresh; sea smooth, becoming moderate. English Channel (E): Wind SE, veering SW, moderate or fresh; sea smooth. Celtic Sea: Wind SE, veering SW, moderate or fresh; sea smooth. Irish Sea: Wind SE, veering SW, moderate or fresh; sea smooth.



High tides			
Location	AM	PM	PM
London Bridge	3.52	7.0	4.13
Abbeystead	3.52	7.0	4.13
Amble	3.52	7.0	4.13
Amble	3.52	7.0	4.13
Amble	3.52	7.0	4.13
Amble	3.52	7.0	4.13
Amble	3.52	7.0	4.13
Amble	3.52	7.0	4.13
Amble	3.52	7.0	4.13
Amble	3.52	7.0	4.13

Around Britain			
Location	Sun	Cloud	Temp
London	7.33am	4.01pm	11.48m
London	7.33am	4.01pm	11.48m
London	7.33am	4.01pm	11.48m
London	7.33am	4.01pm	11.48m
London	7.33am	4.01pm	11.48m
London	7.33am	4.01pm	11.48m
London	7.33am	4.01pm	11.48m
London	7.33am	4.01pm	11.48m
London	7.33am	4.01pm	11.48m
London	7.33am	4.01pm	11.48m

Abroad			
Location	Temp	Cloud	Wind
Amsterdam	10.5	7.45	Sunny
Amsterdam	10.5	7.45	Sunny
Amsterdam	10.5	7.45	Sunny
Amsterdam	10.5	7.45	Sunny
Amsterdam	10.5	7.45	Sunny
Amsterdam	10.5	7.45	Sunny
Amsterdam	10.5	7.45	Sunny
Amsterdam	10.5	7.45	Sunny
Amsterdam	10.5	7.45	Sunny
Amsterdam	10.5	7.45	Sunny

Today's events

Royal engagements
Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother visits the Westminster Children's Society at the Gymnasium, Hyde Park Barracks, to mark its eightieth anniversary, 3.30; as Colonel-in-Chief, she attends the King's Regiment Annual Reunion at the Duke of York's headquarters, 6.45.

The Prince and Princess of Wales open the Asian Centre at Oxford Road, Walthamstow, E17, 10.30.

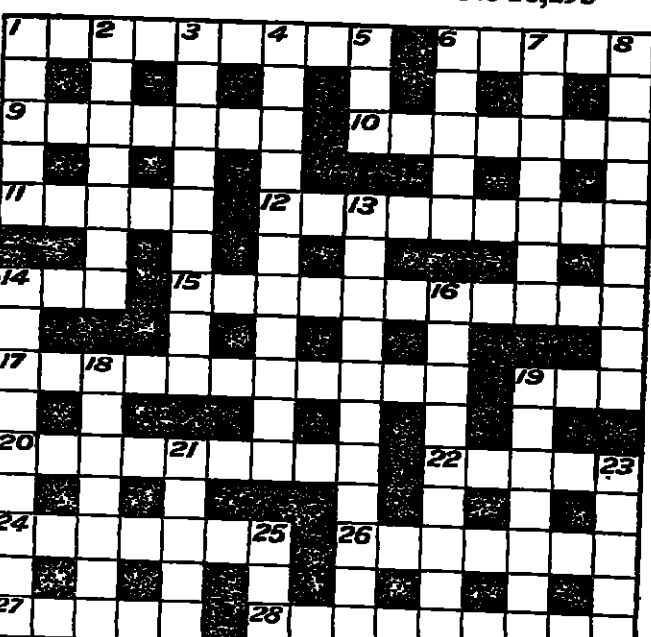
Princess Anne, Chancellor of the University of London, attends Foundation Day celebrations at the Institute of Education, Bedford Way, 6.30.

Princess Margaret, President of Bernard's, presents the Champion Children of the Year Awards, in aid of Bernard's, at the Savoy Hotel, 12.30.

The Duke of Kent, as President, attends a reception marking the launch of the Business and Technician Education Council at the Reform Club, SW1, 6.

Prince Michael of Kent presents the RAC Rally prizes, Bath, 11; and attends the British Society of Magazine Editors Annual Dinner at the Royal Lancaster Hotel, 8.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,295



- ACROSS
- Period of the year for night vision (9).
 - Strength of a little sound (5).
 - Sports arena where the seating may be uncomfortable (3-4).
 - He communicated without wiring (7).
 - Fail to a casual note-taker (5).
 - Gilbert's dead little boatwoman (9).
 - Pole flight safety device (3).
 - System providing trolleys for unassisted take-off (4-7).
 - Inability to come to the point, as in some bars (11).
 - His benders are super (3).
 - Kind of part taken by clique in "The Spanish Gentleman" (9).
 - What's the score? This is (5).
 - May have a rocky foundation, but it holds water (7).
 - Panama, perhaps, for this sort of round sum (7).
 - Duck down for cover (5).
 - Amount of latitude permitted to cleaner, perhaps (9).
- DOWN
- In a word, is a bit wet (5).
 - Joseph did, dead bored (7).
 - Mass one unravels all over the place (9).
 - Gain credit by pretence (4-7).
 - Quer my game! (3).
 - Spread Bordie poet's word (5).
- Solution to Puzzle No 16,294
- ACROSS
- SCOTCH
 - SCOTCH
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- DOWN
- SCOTCH
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